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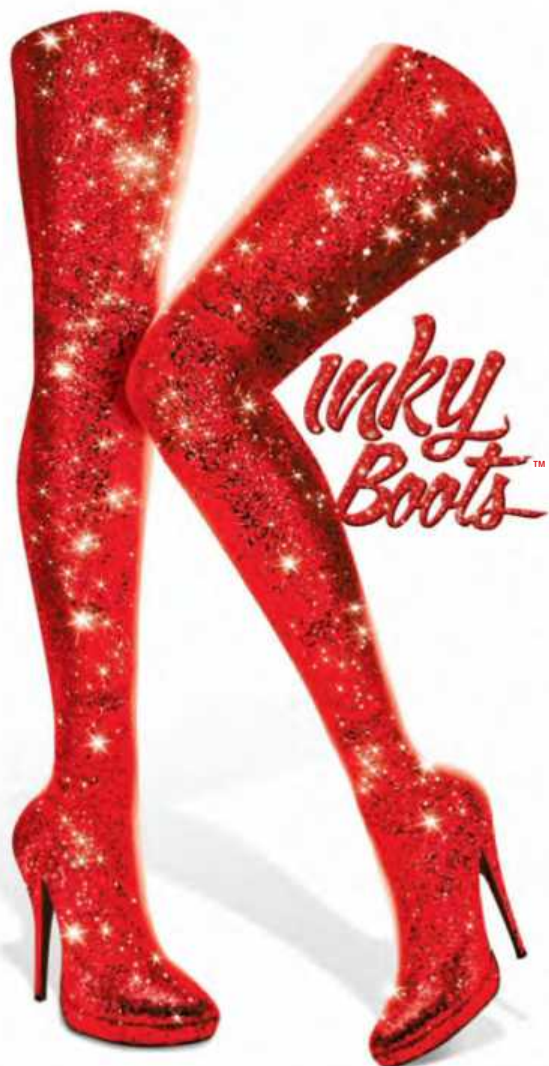




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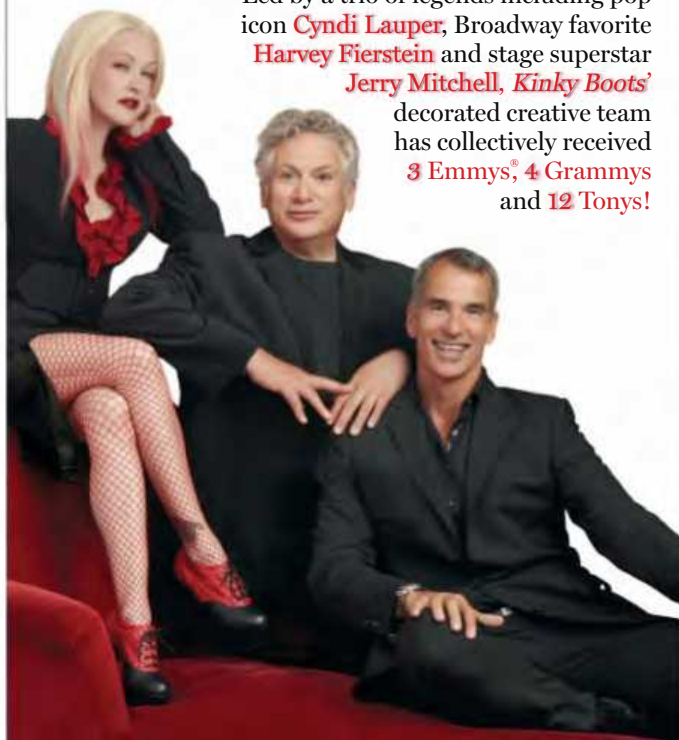


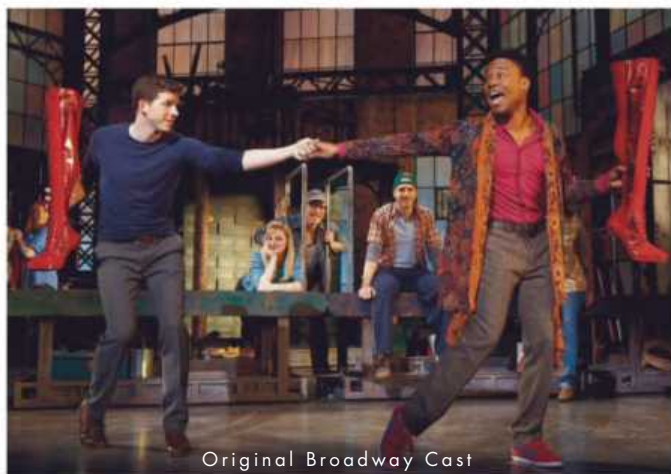
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Twenty-five picks for the next two weeks

PHOTOGRAPHS: FROM TOP, COURTESY OF ICON AIRCRAFT; COURTESY OF ELEVEN RIVINGTON; PETER HAPAK FOR NEW YORK MAGAZINE

A group of four people (three women and one man) are having a picnic in a scenic, mountainous landscape. They are all wearing rain gear: hooded raincoats and rubber boots. They are sitting on a red and green plaid picnic blanket. In the foreground, there is a blue and white cooler, a plate with bread and cheese, and a plate with apples. A purple thermos and a picnic basket are also visible. The background shows steep, rocky mountains under a dramatic, cloudy sky with sunlight breaking through. The overall mood is cozy and adventurous.

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1 “Just as all of Baltimore pondered the mystery of how a progressive city could produce such a despotic police force,” wrote Benjamin Wallace-Wells in his in-depth story of how Baltimore descended into violence following the death of Freddie Gray, a 24-year-old Baltimore resident who died in police custody last spring, “a second mystery had presented itself: If everyone was organized to prevent violence, why did it continue to happen?” (“**A Most Violent Year,**” **November 30–December 13**). “So many conversations in Baltimore this fall gnaw at these two questions,” tweeted Daschloz. “Very thorough article,” wrote commenter william.washington. “As a third generation Baltimorean, I and my family have watched as areas which were middle class fell into decay. The problem with Baltimore is that it is run like a mining operation. Money only goes into capital which will extract revenue for refining elsewhere. There are few who do well (**the median income earned in the city is [substantially] below the national median income**) but most eke out whatever existence they can.” Some were just thankful that the story took on such a weighty subject. “There’s been a great piece crying out to be done about post-riot Baltimore,” tweeted ProPublica’s Alec MacGillis. “Ben Wallace-Wells rose to the challenge.” He later elaborated: “Telling scene: drug dealer pleading w/ cops to start policing again.” Many were simply impressed with the artful storytelling. “Restrained, beautiful, gripping...” tweeted the *New York Times*’ Alan Feuer.

2 Last issue’s story on the lives of former internet sensations “long after the clicks have subsided” provided readers with a glimpse of just how disorienting, even traumatic, viral fame can be (“**I Was**

Internet Famous,” **November 30–December 13**). “It’s only been in the past ten years or so that an ordinary person can wake up and find himself globally famous due to a viral video,” wrote a commenter at Neat-orama. “**That experience can be pretty shocking.** For some, it’s led to greater things while others are still dealing with the scars of notoriety.” Reality Steve thought the interviews were “depressing. We found out that Caitlin Upton basically went into depression and almost tried to kill herself for two years” after her Miss Teen USA video went viral. “Does that mean we should all feel guilty now for laughing at [the video]?” “The internet loves wacky characters who get caught doing embarrassing, funny, and unexpected things,” wrote a commenter at Someecards. “But **behind the joke there’s always a real person who has to deal with the fallout of being the most famous person on YouTube that week.** [These] are some of the darker excerpts of their experience that will make you reconsider whether you want to repost the next viral video you see.” *Teen Vogue*’s Emma Sarraan Webster felt there was a larger life lesson from their stories: “Regardless of the mistakes someone’s made,” she wrote, “it’s important to remember that behind every meme, there’s a real person who deserves to be treated with the decency we’d want for ourselves.” One of the more positive post-fame experiences was that of Tay Zonday, of “Chocolate Rain” fame, who managed to turn his moment in the spotlight into a career. “**I’d love to read a column by him on digital culture,**” wrote commenter Niandra. Other readers were quick to point out one unintentional omission: “Is no one going to call out Chris Crocker and the author of this article for completely leaving out his extensive career in gay porn?” asked commenter ready-

made. And of course readers had their own favorite viral stars they wanted to hear from. “If only they could find Scumbag Steve,” wrote a commenter at the Interrobang. Commenter LvV was impressed with the whole bunch: “These are smart and charismatic young people and they became meme-worthy for a reason, because they are awesome.”

3 Genevieve Smith’s account of one man’s experience with Vivitrol, a drug meant to prevent heroin addicts from getting high, prompted readers to share their stories of addiction (“**What Comes After Addiction,**” **November 30–December 13**). “My daughter is kicking heroin and for now ‘real life’ just looks like a boring, joyless wasteland to her,” wrote commenter Trilby16. “I was very interested to read an explanation of this ‘excessive anhedonia’”—a medical term for the inability to experience pleasure, which is often a lingering effect of drug addiction. “Never heard of that before. **It might help her to know that it will end someday.**” Another commenter, Bazouges, shared his own story to show how difficult it can be to kick a habit without help: “Twenty years ago, my girlfriend and I had a serious heroin/cocaine addiction. It was full blown for about 2 years and we only stopped because our funds ran out. **Even though I thought I could quit on my own, I couldn’t:** I had to go to rehab for two weeks then live in shared housing with other addicts for 5 months. I can’t stress enough that no matter HOW strong you feel after being clean, for a month, a year, two years—you’ll be HIGHLY prone to relapsing. The good news is, it is possible to get off the Hell Train. And life is wonderful once you do.”

➔ Send correspondence to comments@nymag.com. Or go to nymag.com to respond to individual stories.



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INSIDE: Krysten Ritter, superhero / What exactly is the Salvation Army? / Leitch on learning to love our meh teams



Power: Gabriel Sherman

The GOP Bear Market
Republican billionaires
are having trouble
generating returns.

YOU'D THINK BUYING an election would be easy. This is, after all, the rough pitch that political consultants deliver when persuading donors to part with their money. (It's also the primary theme of Bernie Sanders's presidential campaign.) The formula traditionally goes like this: Out-raise the competition, bludgeon them with attack ads, and watch the votes roll in. In the five years since the Supreme Court enshrined unlimited campaign contributions to organizations not directly affiliated with candidates, money has poured into the political system. And yet spending the cash haul effectively has never been more difficult.

Take the 2012 contest between Mitt Romney and Barack Obama. Celebrated political strategist Karl Rove assured a murderers' row of Republican megadonors that, with enough funding, his super-PAC could put Romney in the White House. "I had every expectation we would be the victors," says Home Depot co-founder Kenneth Langone, who gave half a million dollars to Rove's American Crossroads. In the closing weeks of the campaign, Crossroads

circulated a top-secret presentation to a small group of billionaires that projected Romney could win a “mandate” if they contributed an additional total of \$25 million to fund a “surge” of negative ads. A handful ponied up, and on Election Night, they assembled in Boston certain they would be watching their investment pay off.

Instead they watched Rove’s infamous Fox News meltdown as their \$117 million grubstake went up in smoke. To many of the billionaires it felt like a mugging. A few days after the election, New York hedge-fund manager Daniel Loeb, who’d helped finance Rove’s surge, tried to sue Crossroads and Fox News for misrepresenting the facts. “Loeb felt this was like an investment bank committing fraud on a road show,” a friend of his told me. After conferring with a securities lawyer, Loeb discovered that there are no investor protections in politics. He never filed a suit. (And Loeb declined to comment.)

Rove’s 2012 crash is having profound effects on the 2016 Republican primary. To begin with, George W. Bush’s Brain is no longer considered much of a brain. “I gave Rove \$500,000. What did I get for it? Nothing!” Langone told me. Two of Rove’s most generous 2012 funders, Texas billionaires Bob Perry and Harold Simmons, have since passed away, and their heirs have turned off the cash spigot. “Everyone is still shocked Romney lost,” says Simmons’s widow, Annette. “I haven’t committed at all.” So far this year, Crossroads has raised just \$784,000, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. Rove insists he’s still a player. “We’ll be involved in the Senate races,” he told me. “Depending on who the presidential nominee is, we may be involved in that, but that’s a long way off.” What Rove is not is anywhere near the center of the Republican Party. “But for his perch on Fox News, Karl would be in political Siberia,” says a top Republican strategist. “The going joke is that he must have a picture of Roger Ailes in his underwear to keep his contract.”

It’s not just that Rove is personally marginalized. Donors have awakened to the realization that topflight consultants can earn millions from campaigns regardless of whether they win. “It bothers a lot of people that politics has become a cottage industry. Everyone is taking a piece of this and a slice of that,” says California winemaker John Jordan, a former Rove donor. “Crossroads treated me like a child with these investor conference calls where they wouldn’t tell you what was really going on. They offered platitudes and a newsletter.”

Working under the assumption that they can support a campaign better themselves, donors are building their own organizations, staffed by operatives who report to them. “A lot of people who felt betrayed in 2012 set out to build political structures,” says Kellyanne Conway, president of the pro-Ted Cruz super-PAC Keep the Promise I, which is backed by hedge-fund billionaire Robert Mercer. Mercer is a prime example of the new breed of activist donor. This presidential cycle, he has donated more than \$30 million to a quartet of pro-Cruz super-PACs. A computer scientist by training, Mercer is also part owner of a political data firm called Cambridge Analytica, which boasts on its website that it employs “psychographic profiling” to recruit voters. As a result, Mercer’s PACs have shunned the traditional strategy of saturation TV coverage. Instead, Mercer is focused on targeted radio buys, digital outreach, and field organizing.

Where Did All the Money Go?

The top five super-PACs of the 2016 election cycle, ranked by amount spent so far:

RIGHT TO RISE USA:
Supports
Jeb Bush, spent
\$43.8 million

AMERICA LEADS:
Supports
Chris Christie, spent
\$9.3 million

CLUB FOR GROWTH:
Supports
conservative candidates, spent
\$3.8 million

SECURITY IS STRENGTH:
Supports
Lindsey Graham, spent
\$3.5 million

NEW DAY FOR AMERICA:
Supports
John Kasich, spent
\$3.2 million

The savviest GOP candidates have capitalized on this shift. In fact, Cruz’s campaign fund-raising apparatus seems designed to let donors roll up their sleeves. Cruz contributors can specify how they want their money spent, much in the way universities allow benefactors to earmark their donations for a new science wing or aquatics center. “If you’re a donor, you can say, ‘I want to see this money used for Iowa,’” one strategist told me. “It’s a way to entice donors. They look at it like fantasy football.”

The new billionaire-backed operations style themselves as models of superior sophistication. During the last Republican primary, Sheldon Adelson bankrolled Newt Gingrich’s campaign essentially by writing blank checks with little or no oversight. Compare that to the super-PAC funded by Chicago Cubs owner Joe Ricketts, who has his own political staff and demands accountability. “I’m used to saying the Ricketts’ spend their super-PAC money like it’s their own money—because it is,” the family’s political adviser, Brian Baker, told me.

Or look at the network being built by Elliott Management founder Paul Singer. In 2014, Singer created the American Opportunity Alliance, a group of roughly 40 Republican financiers who gather regularly for secret meetings with candidates. This fall, Singer threw his weight behind Marco Rubio and urged his members to do the same. In the general election, Singer will be a player with America Rising, the opposition-research firm headed by Romney’s dark-arts wizard Matt Rhoades. Instead of funding TV ads, Rhoades’s group offers Singer more predictable returns: It is narrowly focused on digging up dirt on Democrats, for example by sending video trackers to events in order to build a library of unflattering material.

It’s all about retaining control. In October, billionaire investor Carl Icahn announced he was launching a \$150 million super-PAC to lobby for corporate tax reform. “At the risk of being immodest, we have one of the best records on Wall Street. And I like doing things myself,” he told me. “Too many cooks spoil the soup.”

John Jordan now supports Republican candidates through his own super-PAC, which applies the lessons he’s learned from winemaking. He, too, is backing Marco Rubio. “I know really well how to sell things. I make my own ads,” Jordan said. “The quality of ads produced by most of the ad-makers is just so bad that they’re ineffective. Have you looked at Jeb’s ads? They’re terrible! It’s unforgivable.”

Perhaps Bush is the perfect case study: The candidate who has underperformed the most is the one with a 2012-style campaign, who steered all his major donors into one super-PAC. That organization, Right to Rise USA, is run by the grizzled strategist Mike Murphy, who succeeded in bundling a \$100 million war chest and is now finding himself on the receiving end of donor backlash. Last month, for instance, a group of major Bush supporters held a conference call to vent about Murphy after he outlined his strategy in an interview to Bloomberg Politics. “These guys got ripshit,” said one person briefed on the call.

But the most important lesson the billionaires are learning this year is that they aren’t much better at politics than Karl Rove. Well, not true. There is one billionaire who seems to have contemporary Republican politics figured out. “This is no longer a meteor going through the sky,” Langone told me, observing Donald Trump’s dominance over the race and sounding just shy of panicked. “He’s been in the lead 116 of 120 days.” ■

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Sidewalk Mystery: What Exactly Is the Salvation Army?

And what happens to that quarter you drop into the red kettle?

By Matt Giles

Members are called Salvationists or, more often, soldiers.

The Structure

The Salvation Army is not purely a charity but also a Christian church, founded in the U.K. in 1865 on mainline Methodist principles.

It has a quasi-military structure: **Instead of bishops and archbishops, it has lieutenants and majors.** Officers are ordained, and the belief system places emphasis on good works at least as much as on faith. The rules are strict; officers may marry only within the organization, and drinking and smoking are forbidden. Even before the organization's American arm was founded in 1880, women were allowed to hold every office, including the top rank of general—the most recent female general, Linda Bond, served from 2011 to 2013—and they constitute more than 50 percent of officers worldwide.

What Are Those Good Works?

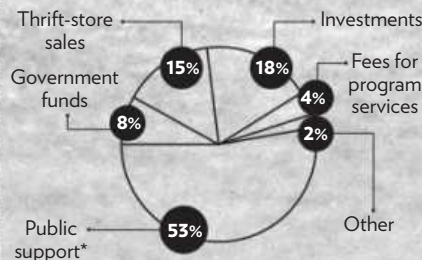
Day-to-day, it runs drug-and-alcohol rehab programs that are free. During emergencies—hurricanes, earthquakes—the group deploys units of its soldiers and volunteers to feed and support victims and also offer counsel and prayer.

The Pay

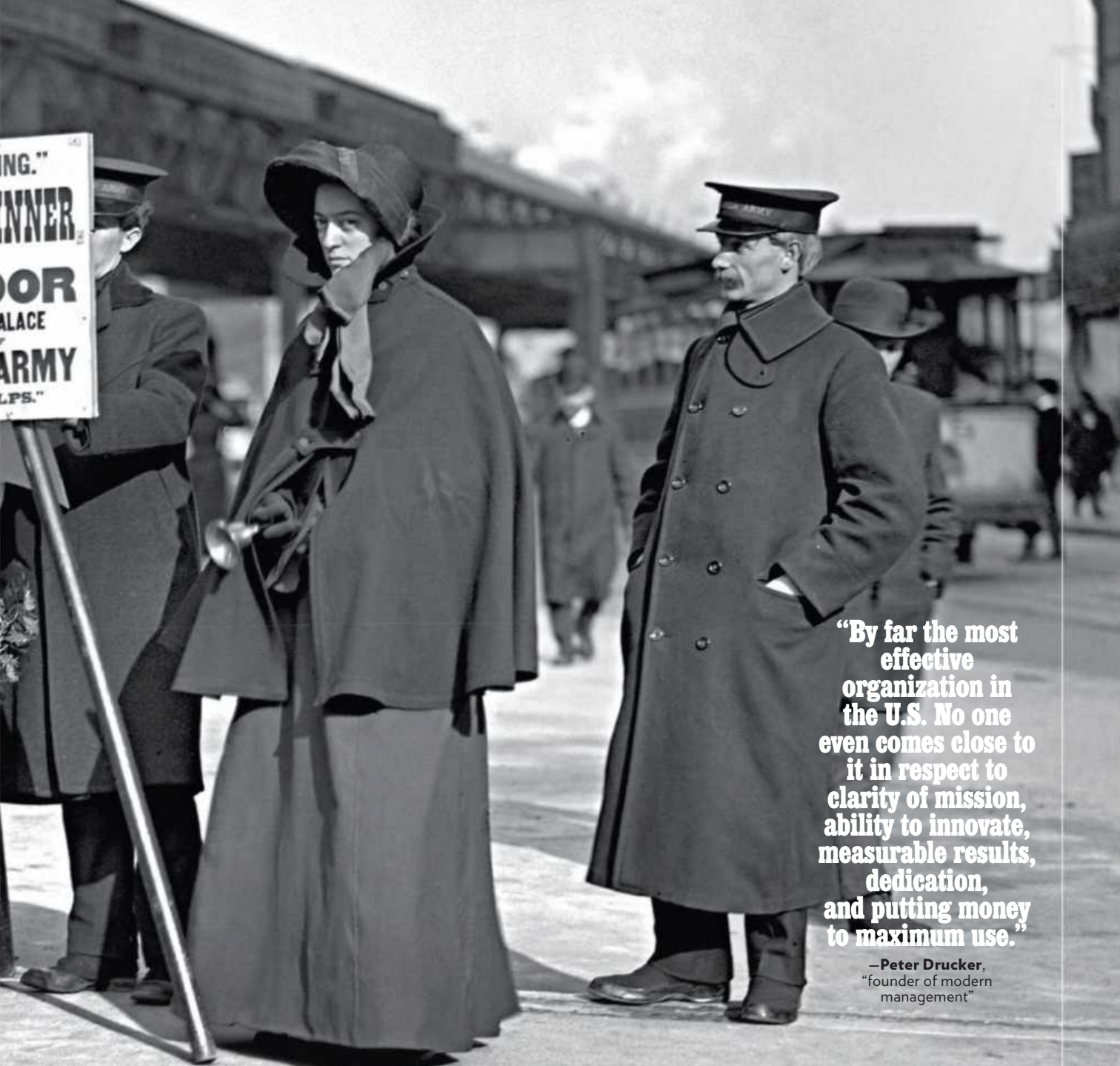
Officers get very low salaries—about \$40,000 a couple per year—but **also receive health insurance, a car, and housing.** Each receives a new assignment every three years and gets a onetime housing allowance upon retirement. As of 2014, the group's real estate—one-third of its assets—was worth \$5 billion.

Money Coming In

Annual revenue:
\$4.1 billion



*About a third of that comes from the kettles and online donations; a quarter comes from bequests.

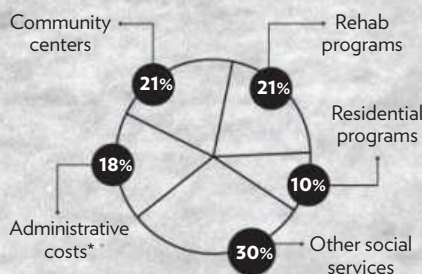


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—Peter Drucker, “founder of modern management”

Money Going Out

Annual expenditures:
\$3.5 billion



*This percentage is impressively low; most charities spend about 30 percent.

Big Mac Cash

In 2004, the estate of McDonald's heiress **Joan Kroc** donated roughly **\$1.5 billion**.

Half was designated to build dozens of community centers, the other half for the endowment. Though the plan got off the ground slowly—five years later, only seven centers had been built—there are now 26.

On the Sidewalk

The bell-ringers are **mostly volunteers**, but extra help is hired at minimum wage.

In New York, more than **1,000 people** work 271 spots. Last year, they took in \$2.1 million here.

In some areas, the kettles pay for **40 percent of local programs**.

On Gay Rights

In 2012, an Australian officer answered affirmatively when asked whether **gays “deserve death,”** and the U.S. website as recently as 2013 listed links to conversion therapy. After activists protested, an official statement—“The Salvation Army does not consider homosexual orientation a sin”—suggested an evolving viewpoint.

That Building on 14th Street

The striking, jagged Art Deco tower, built in 1930, contains a concert hall that once had its own giant pipe organ. (John Philip Sousa wrote a march for its opening day.) The building was the Army's U.S. headquarters until 1981 and **remains a regional office and residence**.



92 MINUTES WITH ...

Krysten Ritter

Who's a knitter. And now, also, Jessica Jones.

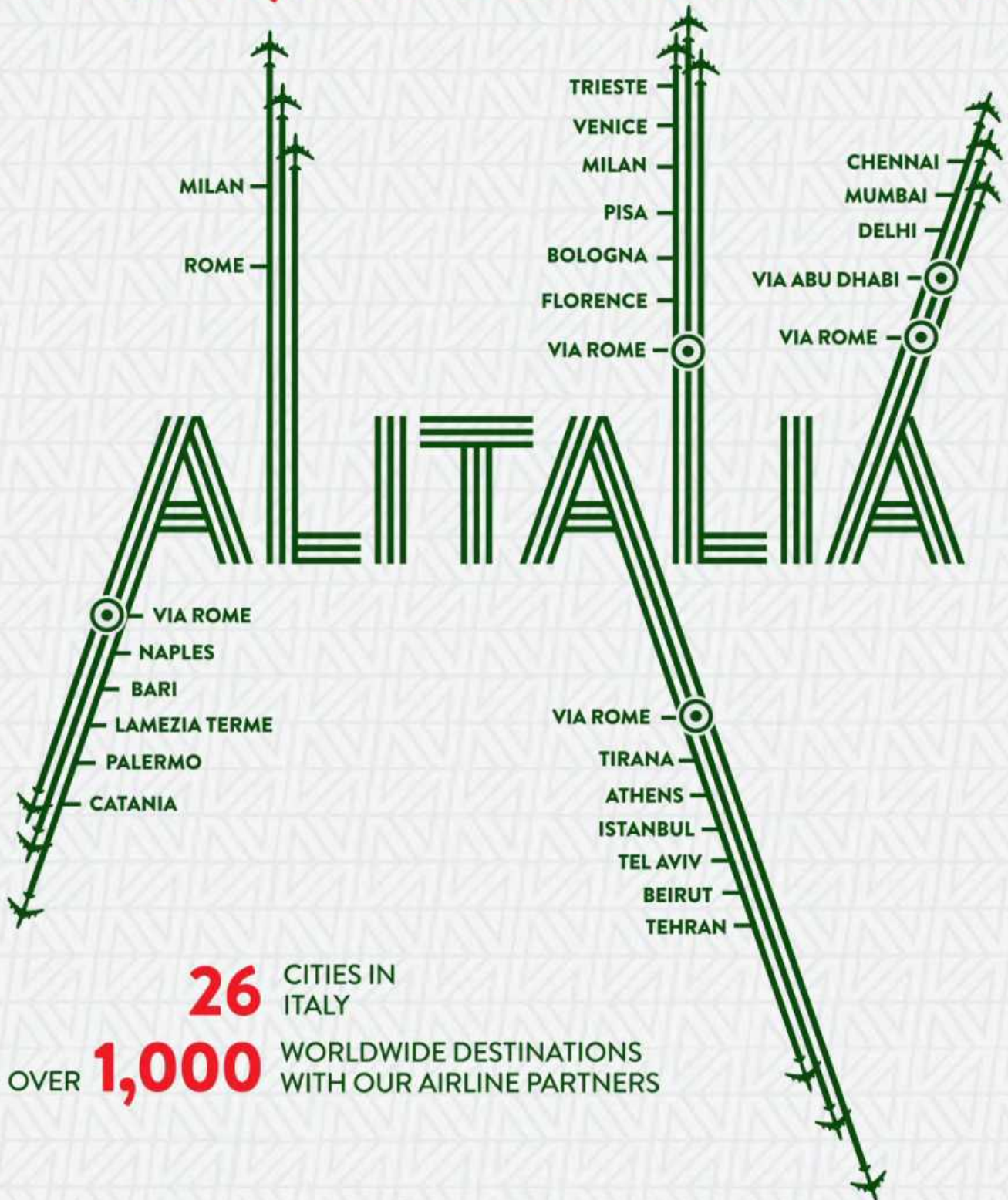
BY PHOEBE REILLY

I'M KNITTING LIKE crazy," says Krysten Ritter, scanning bins of yarn at the Little Knittery, a store not far from her home in the Hollywood Dell. She's been traveling like crazy, too, she says, "so now I need a hobby just for me." The breakneck schedule stems from the arrival of the Netflix series *Jessica Jones*, the adaptation of the Marvel comic *Alias* that was released in 13 ripe-for-bingeing episodes last month and is already showing up on year-end

top-ten lists (including ours; see page 118). At the moment, she's relishing the opportunity to stay put for a few weeks. Some months back, she rediscovered a half-finished blanket when her boyfriend, the War on Drugs lead singer Adam Granduciel, moved in with her, and now here she is, sizing up a red skein of thick-and-thin yarn. "I'm definitely going to buy that," she says. "I want to do something loose and big and chic."

It's her first time here, and Ritter roams the store eagerly. She apologizes

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for changing the time of this rendezvous at the last minute, but her rescue dog, Mikey, is sick, and she has to take him to the vet. “TMI, but he has terrible diarrhea,” she says, making a sad face and rifling through a pile of wool yarn that we both agree is too itchy.

Before this November, Ritter was known for comedies, like the short-lived ABC sitcom *Don't Trust the B— in Apt 23*, or smaller guest roles in shows like *Breaking Bad* and *Gilmore Girls*. She admits that she was somewhat superhero-oblivious before reading for the part of Jessica Jones. “I’d be more inclined to watch *Dirty Dancing* or psychological thrillers like *Damages* and *Bloodline*,” she says. “I liked great characters, and I just had this preconceived idea that that’s not what Marvel did.” She was happy to be wrong, because Jones is a juicy new type of role for the 33-year-old actress: a tough, moody alcoholic who’s trying to put her life back together—and her superhero past behind her—after being exploited by the mind-controlling Zebudah Kilgrave (*Dr. Who*’s David Tennant). “She’s very unlikable, in the studio sense of the word,” says Ritter. “But I don’t find her unlikable, because you spend those vulnerable moments with her and see what she’s struggling with.”

“I’ve had opportunities to do different things, but not an opportunity to do everything—funny, dramatic, action-packed,” says Ritter, who today is dressed, not unlike her alter ego, in all black. “I’m very involved with wardrobe,” she says. “They said, ‘She doesn’t wear a costume—she’s going to kinda be dressed like you are.’ I loved that.” She pulls a white-and-gray poncho from a rack and examines its wide stitches. “Is this just a bunch of yarn overs?” she asks the owner, who nods. “That’s so dope.” They exchange knitting lingo like *bind offs* and *increases*, with pauses for Ritter to translate for me. “You’d really have to pay attention with this,” she says. “It’s not like, ‘Throw on *American Horror Story* and just go.’”

Ritter learned to knit from her grandmother back in Benton, Pennsylvania, before moving to nearby Shickshinny, which she says is as remote and cow-populated as it sounds. She got hooked again on the set of her first movie, 2003’s *Mona Lisa Smile*, in which she played Art Student No. 1. “It was before cell phones, so that’s what all the actresses were doing on set—Julia Roberts, everybody,” she says.

The owner rings us up, and it’s 90 bucks for Ritter—plus \$55 for me, never mind that I have no idea how to knit. Ritter can be as persuasive as Jessica is, only much friendlier, and I some-

how have come away with two shades of alpaca yarn and a pair of needles. “It’s weird that we’re buying stuff to make winter scarves and it’s 100 degrees,” she says, as we step outside into the unseasonable December weather. Ritter points out a Bikram-yoga studio where, she recalls, she once projectile-vomited after a session. “They’re really hard-core about not getting up between poses.” She stops to admire a dog that resembles Mikey. As we pass, his owner adds, “Love your show.”

Ritter just returned from São Paulo, where she and Tennant were enthusiastically received at Brazil’s Comic Con. “The fans were super into it,” she says. I figure she must be used to that sort of thing, having reprised her role from the cultishly beloved series *Veronica Mars* for 2014’s fan-funded movie, but she shakes her head: “I’m sure Kristen Bell had that experience, but I was barely in that.”

Crossing the street, we duck into a café and sit down, and Ritter takes the yarn and needles from my bag. “I’m going to cast on for you,” she says. “It’s going to look really difficult, but it’s not.” Speaking of fans, I tell her that some have already begun ‘shipping—that is, clamoring for Kilgrave and Jones to get into a romantic relationship. Ritter pauses. “I think that’s a testament to David Tennant,” she says. “He’s a great actor, people want to watch him—I want to watch him, so I kind of get it. But it’s twisted. He’s a true villain.” *Jessica Jones* creator Melissa Rosenberg (*Twilight*, *Dexter*) has been praised for making the subject of sexual assault—brought into the show via Kilgrave’s ability to command total submission—much more explicit. “She’s a feminist with a capital F,” says Ritter of Rosenberg. “The comic book never uses the word

“Those were amazing opportunities, as opposed to rolling my eyes in the background of another boy movie.”

rape. This is a story of how [Jessica] gets past feeling victimized.” She stops to count stitches and then has me watch while she adds a second row. “This is going to be so good,” she promises. Actually, I think it’s all going to end in disaster when I accidentally undo all her pretty work, but I admire her tenacity.

At 15, she was discovered in a local mall by Elite Model Management and started traveling to New York for jobs. But she quickly wised up to the short career of a model and switched to acting. She spent a decade achieving what she calls “where have I seen her before?” status (a lot of only-okay rom-coms: *What Happens in Vegas*, *Confessions of a Shopaholic*, *She’s Out of My League*). In the past few years, she’s opted for the leads in smaller, better movies, like *Life Happens*, which she also co-wrote, and *Refuge*, as well as supporting roles in *Listen Up Philip* and Tim Burton’s *Big Eyes*. “Those were amazing opportunities, as opposed to rolling my eyes in the background of another boy movie,” she says. “I didn’t have something that I thought would be a big hit and then wasn’t. I’ve just been trucking along, wishing for an opportunity like *Jessica Jones*.”

She hands me the needles and instructs me to push the right one under the top stitch in a T-formation. “Dude, you’re doing it!” she says with enthusiasm. “Now you have to finish that whole row, or you’re going to fuck it all up.” It looked easier when she was doing it.

Ritter swears she doesn’t know what’s next for her character beyond appearing in *The Defenders*, a series that will unite the superheroes from Netflix’s four Marvel shows (the other three being *Daredevil*, *Luke Cage*, *Iron Fist*). Even if she did, she wouldn’t be able to say so. An insane level of secrecy is the only thing Marvel doesn’t keep secret. For a while, Ritter couldn’t even print out her scripts—she had to log on to a secret website to learn her lines. “Not exactly user-friendly,” she says. Does this mean she wasn’t able to say anything to anyone during the eight-month shoot, not even the close circle of “serious girlfriends” that she was holiday shopping for today? (No spoilers, but Ritter loves a snood.) “Well, I’d obviously talk to my boyfriend—he sleeps in the same bed,” says Ritter. She peers at my knitting. “Wait, no, underneath,” she says. “You’re going above.” After which, it’s time to get Mikey to the vet. “When you get home, do at least 15 rows,” she says. As if anticipating the discouragement that will follow after an hour of YouTube tutorials fail to fix the damage, she adds: “I don’t want you to get frustrated.” ■



The Eight Senses

120 WOOSTER STREET



Games: Will Leitch

Learning to Love .500
What the Jets, Knicks,
and Mets have to
teach us about fandom.

IF THERE'S ONE enduringly destructive problem with New York City sports franchises, it's that every team is expected to win a championship, or at least chase after it in desperate good faith, every year. They don't *do* rebuilding in New York—because of the inherent financial advantages of running a team here, to insist on anything less than total domination, all the time, seems somehow defeatist. It's Donald Trump meets George Steinbrenner: If you don't win everything, you're a loser.

The thing about this strategy is that it produces a lot of losers. The Yankees fostered the illusion that their dominance since the '90s was the result of some secret capitalist formula only they understood, but the real secret to their success was young, cost-controlled talent; some happy postseason kismet; and Mariano Rivera. The only time the Yankees ever truly spent their way to the title was 2009, when they invested more than \$400 million in three players mere weeks into the 2008 financial collapse ... and two of those contracts (Mark Teixeira and CC Sabathia) ended up being massive albatrosses that still weigh the team down today. And despite their dead-cat bounce

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to the Wild Card game in 2015, the Yankees are in fact rebuilding—turning away from crazy-high-dollar, long-term contracts and focusing on cheaper, younger talent. But it's going to take them a while: They'll still be paying Alex Rodriguez a full year after President Trump's inauguration.

And the Yankees are the success story. Aside from a couple of lucky playoff runs for Rex Ryan's Jets and Tom Coughlin's Giants (okay, yes, they won two Super Bowls, but those victories are somehow very hard to believe in retrospect), every local franchise has seemed like an also-ran every year for a decade. By the imperial logic of the city, this means these teams haven't just felt like disappointments; they've felt like minor-league squads, undeserving of the big-time ticket and television revenue they get from the country's biggest market. The Jets, the Mets, and especially the Knicks have been national jokes for so long not just because they're usually bad, but because they're bad in New York.

Which is why it has been such a relief, in the past few months, to see something sort of amazing happening. Those three teams, the Jets, Mets, and Knicks, are doing something we haven't seen in New York in decades: They're not acting like New York teams at all. They're showing wisdom, patience, and the kind of understanding of their non-exceptionalism that you must have to succeed given the way sports are structured. They're not necessarily rebuilding, but they're not pretending the rules of gravity don't apply to them either.

Not coincidentally, they're finally becoming a little more tolerable to watch and cheer for. They're not half-bad. And as even jaded, cocky New York fans can probably now admit, not half-bad is actually pretty fun. Especially if what has made your disaster of a team suddenly not half-bad is seven-foot-three freak of nature Kristaps Porzingis, a 20-year-old Latvian who plays like what would happen if Dirk Nowitzki and Hakeem Olajuwon mated with an ostrich who had watched a ton of hip-hop growing up. (He's a "Reason to Love New York," as you can see on page 38.)

The Knicks are surely the most surprising feel-good-by-feeling-meh story of the year. But the Mets got there first. Their resurgence toward the end of the 2015 season was maybe more about pure good luck than the team would like to admit—if the Nationals hadn't imploded, the Mets likely wouldn't have made the playoffs at all—but it wasn't entirely unplanned either. The Mets' trump card was their inability to act like a typical New York team. Because of the Madoff mess, they were fiscally incapable of signing aging players to crippling long-term contracts and/or trading away key pros-

pects for veterans. Thus, they allowed those lightning-bolt starting pitchers to develop instead of rushing them or sending them away, and they even flipped some of their own veterans (R.A. Dickey, Carlos Beltrán) for prospects (Noah Syndergaard, Travis d'Arnaud, Zach Wheeler), the opposite of what usually happens.

The Jets, for all their success under Rex Ryan (almost all of which came in his first two seasons), always had the feel of a team more interested in the back page than the Super Bowl. Rex's perpetual (and perpetually entertaining) antics. Constantly signing big names to one-year contracts to "win the offseason." Preening for the cameras on HBO's *Hard Knocks*. Most infamously, bringing in Tim Tebow for reasons that still confound the imagination (and confused even Tebow himself). The Jets have always learned the wrong lesson from Joe Namath: Namath was a superstar because he was an outsize figure *and* a winner. The Jets were only one of those things, which is why their signature highlight of the last five years remains Mark Sanchez's butt fumble. But with Ryan in Buffalo, the Jets got serious this offseason. Todd Bowles is a notoriously no-nonsense coach—reporters have been driving themselves nuts trying to get anything out of him—but he's beloved by his players. He has come to the Jets and essentially settled everything down—the team is boring and competent and normal, and better than it has been in years. Even the Jets' big dramatic moment this year, when quarterback Geno Smith had his jaw broken by a teammate, turned out for the best: Bowles immediately cut the player (who was of course picked up by Ryan and selected as a team captain when the Bills played the Jets) and replaced Smith with Ryan Fitzpatrick, who has played better for the Jets than Smith ever did. Bowles is a no-drama person for a franchise that has desperately needed an even keel. He's just a regular coach. And it's working.

But nowhere does the change feel more dramatic than at Madison Square Garden. Last year's team won 17 games and had the lowest winning percentage in franchise his-

**So this is
what it's like to
be a fan in
Milwaukee!**

tory, but it was still somehow worse than that. Carmelo Anthony led the Knicks in total points while playing in less than half their games. (And he wasn't even that good when he played.) At times you wondered if they'd just grabbed the ten tallest people they could find off the street, put Knicks jerseys on them, and watched what happened. It was the nadir of Jim Dolan's time as owner of the Knicks, and there have been many, many nadirs.

Now, the Knicks of the past would have spent the offseason trying to bring in every bad contract they could find. But under Phil Jackson, an old dog who turns out to have some surprising new tricks up his sleeve, they did something fascinating: They simply went about the dull business of putting together a semi-competent team. Jackson brought in veterans like Robin Lopez, Kyle O'Quinn, and Arron Afflalo. He worked with Carmelo to make him feel more like a part of the team. Most important, he dove in on Draft Day, bringing in point guard of the future Jerian Grant and, best of all, that amazing Latvian. Is he the best draft pick since Patrick Ewing 30 years ago? How is that even possible? Ten years ago, the Knicks might have traded him for the last legs of Antonio McDyess. Now they have a potential superstar ... and a team that, doggone it, is kind of a blast to watch.

Are they a title contender? No. But for once, that's not the point. The old Knicks logic—compile superstars, pay them maximum contracts, and see what happens—looks particularly foolish in the wake of the emergence of the Golden State Warriors, who've stockpiled talent and embraced advanced concepts like efficiency and floor-spacing to maximize the value of the three-point shot. Jackson has noticed: Take core players like Porzingis—who hasn't even shown off his three-point shooting yet—and build around them, but don't pay maximum money just so Carmelo has some friends to play with. Like the Mets and the Jets, the Knicks have finally figured it out. (Until Dolan starts meddling again, of course; if that happens, all bets are, as always, off.) These teams might not win championships—though the Mets were close; you never know!—but they will be better than they were last year without mortgaging the future chasing fool's gold. We've spent a decade mocking the Jets, Knicks, and Mets, and they've spent that decade running in circles because they thought that's what we wanted them to do. But all we wanted was just not to be embarrassed. It's astounding how much that feels like progress and amazing how fun that is to follow. So this is what it's like being a fan in Milwaukee, or Seattle, or Charlotte. It's not terrible! It sure beats what it's usually like around here. ■

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1

BECAUSE

THE OLDEST PERSON IN THE WORLD IS LIVING IN BROOKLYN.

HERE ARE SOME things that did not yet exist when Susannah Mushatt Jones was born in Alabama on July 6, 1899: the Model T, and for that matter the Ford Motor Company. The teddy bear. Thumbtacks and tea bags. Puccini's *Tosca* and Scott Joplin's "Maple Leaf Rag." The Flatiron Building and the subway system beneath it. Emma Morano, an Italian woman born four months later, who is today the only other living soul who was around before 1900.

One hundred and sixteen years ago, Susie's tenant-farmer father, Callie, could theoretically have voted, though Alabama's poll taxes and rigged literacy tests pretty much took care of that. As for her mother, she was barred from the polls twice over, because voting rights for women were two decades off. Mary Mushatt had 11 children—Susie being the third and the oldest girl—and cooked on an open fire with water drawn from a well. Corn bread was baked by burying it in the fireplace's ashes. The family raised their own produce and meat.

Susie walked seven miles to what was then called the Calhoun Colored School, a private academy specializing in practical education. Her family paid the boarding-school tuition by barter: wood cut for the fire, bushels of corn they'd grown.

Her relatives say she did not dwell on the bad aspects of the prewar South. Tee—family members call her that, short for "Auntie"—was the type to put her head down and keep moving. Which is what she did after graduation: In December 1922, she made the three-day train trip to Newark, New Jersey, where a well-off family had hired her to be a nanny and housekeeper. A year later, she jumped to an easier and more glamorous job with a couple in Westchester: Paul Cokell was the treasurer of Paramount Pictures, and he and his wife, Virginia, had no children. Winters took the Cokells and her to Bel-Air and to Florida. She met Cary Grant, Clark Gable, Ronald Reagan (all younger than she). Her already-good cooking got better and more refined.

In 1928, she married a man named Henry Jones, but they soon split up. (She doesn't talk about him but kept his surname.) She had a room in Harlem for a while, in an apartment shared with other women from Alabama, but most of her time was spent as a live-in. After Paul Cokell died in 1945—killed himself, actually—she moved on to other domestic jobs. The Andrews family, with five children, was probably her favorite. Gail Andrews Whelan, now in her 70s, says Jones was a great caregiver—neither draconian nor a pushover, someone who laid down the law but also "always had your back," and could serve breakfast to 30 girls after a slumber party.

Jones retired in 1965, a few months after the Civil Rights Act took effect. She went back to the farm in Alabama for a while, then returned to New York for good. Here, she was similarly surrounded by family, because after her journey north she had become a magnet. More than a dozen Mushatts made the trip after her, in a microcosm of the Great Migration, most settling in Brooklyn. A high percentage of her siblings and their descendants went to college, some with her financial help. Quite a few have lived longish lives, but none remotely like hers. One of her brothers reached 92, and died seven years ago. Of the 11, only she remains.

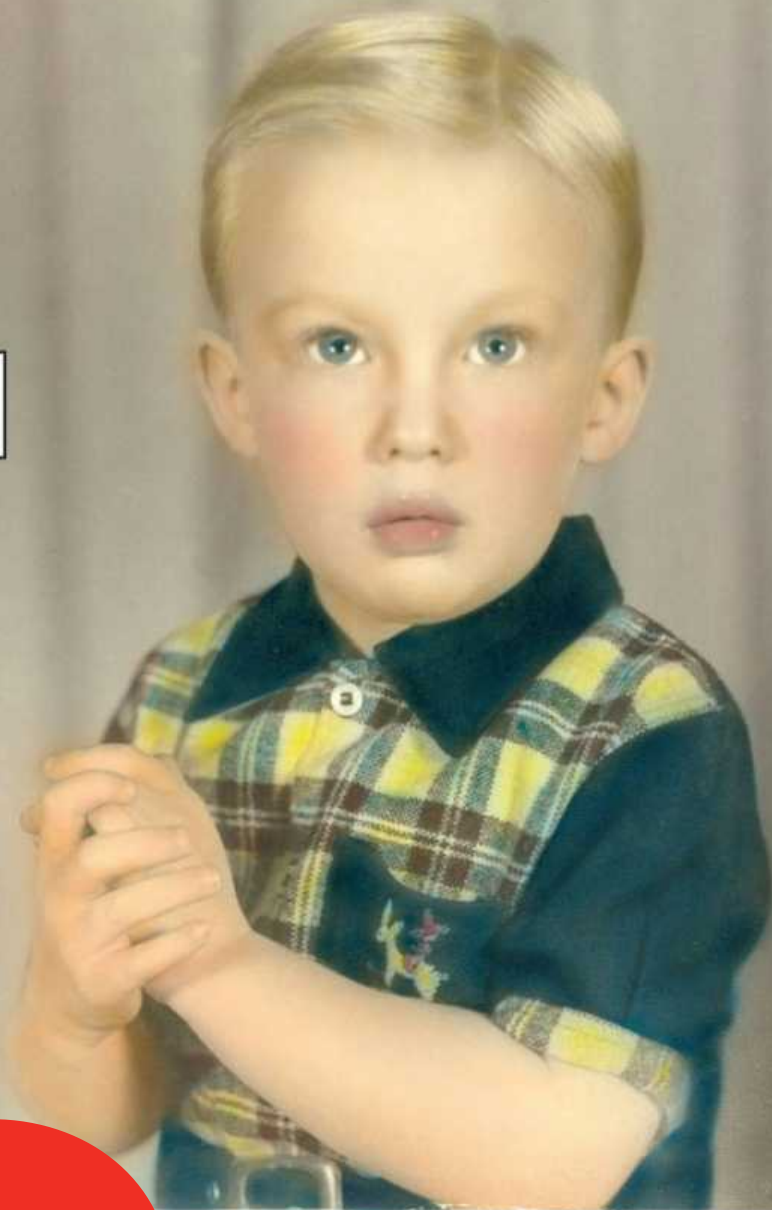
When she was about 80—that is, 35 years ago—she moved into a seniors' home in Canarsie. At 100, she had to stop cooking for herself and give up her neighborhood-watch role, as her eyesight started to go. (Really, it's just cataracts, but she is too stubborn to sit for the surgery.) Late in life, she lost her aversion to curse words, though she'd subsequently deny any cussing she did. Miss Susie is her building's microcelebrity, and on June 17, she became the world's oldest living person upon the death of Jeralean Talley, who had six weeks on her.

She is fragile, no question about it. Sleeps a lot, can't hear well. But she still loves her bacon—four strips, every morning, eaten with gusto. Has a pretty good appetite, in fact. Chews Doublemint gum. Her hair, long since turned white, has come in brown again. She voted for Barack Obama, twice. (A birthday letter from him hangs on her wall.) And next fall, Susannah Mushatt Jones will perhaps get to vote for a woman as well. Whoever's elected would be her 21st president.

CHRISTOPHER BONANOS



→
DONALD TRUMP
AS A TODDLER
IN QUEENS.



2

BECAUSE

NO MATTER YOUR POLITICS, THERE'S A NEW YAWK ACCENT FOR YOU.

EARLY IN OCTOBER, Donald Trump was in the midst of a speech at the Electric Park Ballroom in Waterloo, Iowa ("I love eminent domain"), when from the audience a man yelled out that Trump was going to be president. It was early enough in the Trump phenomenon that one's thinking the tycoon might actually win seemed a mark of minor instability: too much life wasted in comments sections or maybe just being drunk. Trump smiled, a little dismissively, let his tiny eyes disappear into a coy tuck. He held up his hand: "I don't want to get too braggadocios." *Braggadocios!* What New Yorker still talks like that?

All through the summer and fall, Trump, who was born in Queens, and Bernie Sanders, who was born in Brooklyn, kept up an impenetrable outer-borough code-talk: The irony was that the most cynical and vile

PHOTOGRAPHS: FACEBOOK (TRUMP); COURTESY OF LARRY SANDERS (SANDERS)



BROTHERS LARRY AND
BERNIE SANDERS IN
BROOKLYN, C. 1944.

amount of time,” he said, cutting short the press conference at which he announced his candidacy for the most powerful office in the world. “I’ve gotta get back.”

The Donald is an especially perfect case study: How is it that voters have been seduced by a man who is, so routinely, so noxious? One (very partial) theory: Whatever he’s saying, you can still be charmed by the way he’s saying it. “Americans have

come to associate New Yorkers, and so New York accents, with saying what you mean, intense emotional talk, and not worrying too much about whom you

offend,” a Queens College linguist wrote this fall. Possibly, though “intense emotional talk” didn’t do much to build a national attachment to Rudy Giuliani, nor “saying what you mean” for Chuck Schumer. And whatever their New Yorker-iness has given Sanders and Trump, they have given a great deal back to the city. The more natural response of a New Yorker to seeing the presidential race shaped by men who talk like Mike Francesa’s callers is a certain possessive kind of thrill, like when it turned out that the whole country was in on the joke of *Seinfeld*’s parents. Our maniacs are now the country’s maniacs.

But to hear Sanders’s and Trump’s voices is to realize what a rich history is embedded in that accent, and to realize how encased each of those politicians is in a particular moment in time. In Sanders, there is the early, slightly prudish Greenwich Village of Max Eastman and Joe Gould, of very intense arguments had very early in the morning. In Trump, there is the jaded cruelty of Bo Dietl and Don Imus and dreadful preppy bars on upper Second Avenue. The fascination is in the pairing, of dry social uplift and opulent racism, each in its own way a response to the dense human city. New Yorkers can’t honestly claim ownership of one and disavow the other.

A few weeks ago, after it was mentioned, a bit sneeringly, in the press, I tracked down the folk album that Sanders cut in 1987. It’s a strange, compelling little record, Sanders sing-talking over tracks a little too fast and very nasally, an *alte kaker* Gil Scott-Heron, a man whose love of his country survived even what seemed like a monumental head cold. I found it strangely moving. Over the strumming opening to “This Land Is Your Land,” Sanders began to intone the lyrics: “As I went walking that ribbon of highway ...” You could hear the Brooklyn clearly, right away: *Wawking*. There may never have been a more fully American sound.

BENJAMIN WALLACE-WELLS

presidential candidate in recent years and the most yearning one spoke with nearly the same voice. The refusal to pronounce initial *h*’s seemed ideological. Trump called things he liked *yoooge*, spreading his arms and beaming, and Bernie called the endangered species he was running to protect *yooman beings*, narrowing his features and looking pained. Second-syllable consonants emerged drowned in spit, barely recognizable. *S* sounds stuck to every *t* and *d*. When Sanders said *billionaire class*, he gave the final *s* an extra hiss; when he said America could learn something from Denmark, the *r* was lost somewhere in his sinuses. The spaces between words seemed compressed, hurried, as did the man. Sanders’s father was a paint salesman, and Sanders also seems to operate on the city’s frantic commercial schedule. “We don’t have an endless



BECAUSE

TRUMP IS FLAT OUT WRONG. OUR YUUUGE IMMIGRANT POPULATION IS WHAT MAKES US GREAT.

THIS IS STILL A CITY OF immigrants—3.07 million of them, or 37 percent of the city (the same proportion as 1900, at the height of Ellis Island). And the other 63 percent are happy to welcome more, particularly those in crisis. Asked about the number of languages used on subway postings, the MTA responded “too many to remember.” Our immigration courts are the most accommodating in the country (not even liberal San Francisco comes close). In 2014, the City Council established the first public-defender program in the country for immigrants facing deportation. According to the most recent data, there are more than 380,000 Dominican immigrants in New York, 350,000 from China, 186,000 from Mexico, 169,000 from Jamaica, and 140,000 from Guyana (followed by Ecuador, Haiti, Trinidad, India, and Russia). Half of our physicians and surgeons are immigrants, as are 72 percent of our nurses and aides, and more than one in five elementary- and middle-school teachers. And they are fantastic neighbors: The areas densest with immigrants outperform the city as a whole for economic growth, and for every one percent increase in immigrant population for a police precinct, 966 fewer crimes are reported each year.

JAMES WALSH

BECAUSE ZINGIS KHAN IS STARTING AT FORWARD.

No.

4



➔ WHEN THE KNICKS used the fourth overall pick in June's NBA Draft to select a skinny 19-year-old Latvian who topped out at over seven feet but was untested by the American basketball system—and unknown to fans beyond some grainy YouTube footage—fans weren't exactly happy. When the pick was announced, ESPN's cameras caught a young fan in Knicks gear erupting in a fit of tears.

Six months later, Kristaps Porzingis is the Knicks' leading rebounder and shot-blocker; their second-leading scorer; and the brightest beacon of hope since Jeremy Lin stormed the Garden. (This time, the city is caught up in "Zingsanity.")

On the first day of December, Porzingis showed up at the ribbon cutting of a newly refurbished school gymnasium in Queens wearing loose gray sweats from head to toe. No signature shoes yet: His first brand ambassadorship came from a mattress factory in New Jersey, which comped him a 98-inch "Athletic King" mattress that takes up most of the floor space in his bedroom. His favorite restaurant is the Cheesecake Factory, which replaced his previous favorite, TGI Friday's. "They have millions of different cheesecakes," he says with a shrug.

Carmelo Anthony arrived at the gym alongside Porzingis, wearing a STAY MELO T-shirt. He got cheers, but the rookie got just as many. When Porzingis was 10, he braided his hair into cornrows, like the ones Anthony was then sporting in his third year in the NBA. (Porzingis's favorite player, Kobe Bryant, has been in the NBA for all but one year of Porzingis's life.) The cornrows were just one of many unlikely quirks Knicks fans have discovered about Porzingis—before the Draft, he posted a video of himself singing "Ridin' Dirty" while driving an Audi—and as the Garden dignitaries filed in front of a group of kids from the school, Porzingis curled his left hand into the shape of a

pistol, pointed at the kids, and offered an exaggerated wink, as if he had leapt straight out of an old Western.

The school visit was one of Porzingis's first trips to the outer-boroughs. He spends most of his non-basketball time in White Plains, where he lives with his parents and two older brothers. "It's a whole family business," Porzingis says, after taking a seat away from the throng. "My brothers are out there making deals for me—Janis is my agent, Martin's my manager—and Dad is analyzing every game." His mother handles nutrition, when he is not at Cheesecake Factory, which requires regular trips to South Brooklyn's Russian grocery stores. "We eat a lot of meat," Porzingis said. "The trainers are okay with it." (There will soon be no more home-cooking: Visa requirements are forcing his parents to return to Latvia this month.)

Even across the Atlantic, Porzingis was aware of both Linsanity's meteoric rise and its nearly as swift dissolution. "It's definitely different," he says. "Because hopefully I can stay here for a long time."

Recently, the father of the tearful boy from Draft Night approached Porzingis's brother at a game. "That kid, he's got my jersey now," Porzingis said. "His dad got one, too."

REEVES WIEDEMAN

No.

5

And because New York sports fans are the world's punniest.

An incomplete list of nicknames for Kristaps Porzingis.

- * PorzinGod
- * Godzingis
- * KP
- * KP6
- * Three 6 Latvia
- * Inspector Gadget
- * Air Zingis
- * Porzeesus
- * Dr. Zoom
- * The Latvian [sic] Gangbanger

- * Zingis Khan
- * Latviathan
- * Special K
- * Zinger
- * Porzilla
- * Porz Authority
- * WorldStar
- * 6God
- * Krisps
- * Darth Zingis



This one is not a fan of Banksy.

No.

6

BECAUSE

**EVEN OUR DOGS
ARE CRITICS.**



YESTERDAY. TOMORROW. TODAY

Mornings on  **NBC**

No.

7



AND BECAUSE OUR RATS ARE DISCRIMINATING, TOO.

IN HONOR OF 2015's most prominent New Yorker—"Pizza Rat," the rodent whose scuttle down a set of East Village subway stairs with a slice larger than his body has been viewed more than 8.5 million times on YouTube—*New York* decided to settle, once and for all, the debate over what the best pizza in the city is. We ordered pies from four establishments, let them sit around the offices all day, then recruited a few discerning critics in a Chinatown park after dark. Watch out, Adam Platt. **ALEXA TSOULIS-REAY**

(Video of the taste test on nymag.com.)



Grimaldi's

An order of the famous original pie, with Italian sausage.

→ Which just sat there. One rat sniffed around but ...

→ ... left without trying anything.

TOTAL:
0 slices



Williamsburg Pizza

A not so fresh order of pizza margherita.

→ One rat nosed around the box for several minutes before finally diving in.

→ But only one more slice disappeared: Reviews must not have been positive.

TOTAL:
2 slices



Motorino

An order of prosciutto di Parma with fragrant oregano.

→ This rat couldn't grab a piece fast enough, and kept coming back for more.

→ The slices went quickly; customers were swarming after all the positive word of whisker—but a few scraps were left.

TOTAL:
3.8 slices

WINNER



Lombardi's

The original pie—mozzarella, Romano—with pancetta.

→ After an exploratory period, one rat took the first slice.

→ Suddenly the cardboard was crowded with happy diners.

TOTAL:
8 slices



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IF IT SEEMED LIKE the Mets' bandwagon grew this year during their improbable run to the World Series, you might want to blame the romance-novel-cover hair of two of the team's starting pitchers. The haircuts—or lack thereof—of Noah Syndergaard and Jacob deGrom garnered them almost as much attention as their unbelievable fastballs. Syndergaard's Nordic-looking flaxen locks earned him the nickname Thor, and the wild chestnut waves of deGrom belied the calm soul within, a soul transformed into a pitching machine each game by Lynnyrd Skynyrd's "Simple Man." DeGrom's hair became such a symbol among fans that Mr. Met himself was spotted at one game sporting a long brown wig. Did you know deGrom's sister Jessica, an ex-hairdresser, cuts his every year before spring training? Did you know Syndergaard, now tall and muscular, once had the body of a doughy teen, with a dorky haircut to match? Like ice cream in a plastic Mets baseball cap, Mets fans gobbled these anecdotes up, and at times it even seemed as if the source of the Mets' power were buried in those manes, deGrom and Syndergaard our modern-day Samsons.

When the pain of the World Series loss had dulled slightly, I reached out to the pitchers' agent (they share one) to see if I could ask them a few important questions: What products do they use? How do they fight hat head? But the boys passed, tired of talking about their manes. Simply having beautiful hair had opened them up to a host of questions about their appearance that baseball players are not used to fielding. Can you imagine how annoying it would be to be the best at what you do and have reporters ask you questions about your appearance? As a woman, I cannot. JESSICA ROY

BECAUSE

THE METS HAVE BETTER HAIR THAN GISELE AND BEYONCÉ COMBINED.

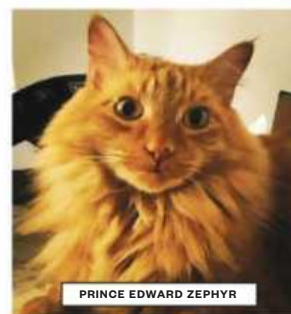
No. 9



Because **Brook Lopez** of the Nets and **Robin Lopez** of the Knicks, who are twins, would like to live together but can't because of their cats, who hate each other.



"BROOK'S CAT is very two-faced," Robin told the *Post* in November, speaking of Poupin—French for "chubby." (His own cat is named Prince Edward Zephyr.) "To everybody's face, he's such a nice cat. And it may sound like I'm joking, but I am dead serious. He acts like a lazy, sweet cat when everybody is looking. But when their heads turn, he'll try to chase after Edward. The second I lay eyes on him, he'll act like, 'I'm a cherub. I'm innocent. I'm not buying it.'"



PHOTOGRAPHS: ANDREW THEODORAKIS (METS HAIR); ROCKY WIDNER/NBAE VIA GETTY IMAGES (BROOK); NATHANIEL S. BUTLER/NBAE VIA GETTY IMAGES (ROBIN); PEZWARDISKING/INSTAGRAM (ZEPHYR); POUPIN/INSTAGRAM (POUPIN)

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10

BECAUSE

THE BEST SHOW ON BROADWAY IS ABSOLUTELY FREE.

USUALLY, the call goes out on Twitter before lunch, on Lin-Manuel Miranda's feed, and it's a little cryptic. "A fellow composer on tonight's #Ham4Ham show! singing a song with some army wives for backup," read one a couple of months ago. Doesn't matter how specific it is: By 5:55 p.m. outside the Richard Rodgers, a thousand people will have shown up. Each is ostensibly there to drop a slip of paper into a bucket, because seats in the front row for *Hamilton*, at \$10 each, are offered by lottery each day at 6 p.m. (The rest of the house is effectively sold out till next summer.) But of those 1,000 people, 979 will have to head home. The next five minutes are, mostly, for them.

The Ham4Ham performance is unique every time. One Saturday in October, it was three men—Andrew Rannells, Jonathan Groff, and Brian D'Arcy James, each of whom has played King George III—jokily lip-syncing "The Schuyler Sisters," a song usually delivered by *Hamilton*'s three principal women. Another evening this fall was dedicated to the show's stage manager, who called out his tech cues as the cast performed "Ten Duel Commandments." Still another night, one of the show's stage-door guys, Angelo, spit almost all of Slick Rick's "Mona Lisa" (pretty credibly) with Miranda. *Fun Home*, *Allegiance*, and *Les Miz* cast members have dropped in to sing, too.



TOP: Lin-Manuel Miranda leading the November 25 Ham4Ham performance. **ABOVE:** The old-school lottery for inexpensive last-minute tickets.



This is, as far as anyone can remember, unique. Nobody else has tried to offer the equivalent of a DVD extra, live on a Manhattan side street, a couple of days a week. "I've been telling people," says Christopher Jackson, who plays George Washington, "that *Hamilton* is very much a glimpse of what it's like to be

inside Lin's brain. And Ham4Ham is in the part of his brain where the happy thoughts live. I'm about 20 feet from his dressing room, and he gets so genuinely excited—almost as excited to do Ham4Ham as he does for the show. It's an unprecedented thing." *To the revolution!*

CHRISTOPHER BONANOS

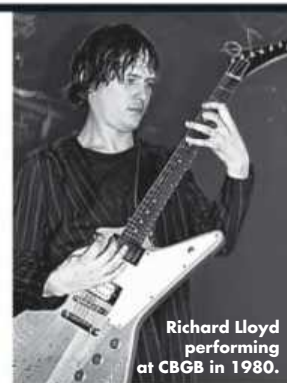
No. 11

BECAUSE

YOU CAN TAKE GUITAR LESSONS FROM THE GUY FROM TELEVISION.

RICHARD LLOYD, who's 64, doesn't gig much these days, but he does teach for \$100 an hour. (And he isn't the only name-brand, high-cred option available to New York's aspiring guitar heroes. The ferocious Marnie Stern teaches occasionally, as has Charles Bissell of the godlike Wrens.) About a week after I scheduled time with him via the email address on his website, Lloyd invited me into his living room—where a Television concert poster hung on the wall—handed me one of his gorgeous Fender Stratocasters, and flipped on a couple of small amps. "Can you play me a major scale?" Lloyd asked, a little gruffly. Yep. "Pentatonic scales?" I played one. Lloyd next ran me through some tough chording exercises, up and down the neck. My left hand hurt. "Do those for 20 minutes a day," he said. Then: "Let's do some math. Ratios." (I hate math.) He had me take dictation—1:1, the tonic; 1:2, the octave; 2:3, the dominant fifth; all the way to 15:16, the minor second. At the top of the page, he had me write "Agreement." At the bottom, "Noise." Soon, time was up. "Those are the basics," Lloyd said with a smile, leading me out. "You did very well."

DAVID MARCHESI



Richard Lloyd performing at CBGB in 1980.

PHOTOGRAPH: EBET ROBERTS/REDFERNS/GETTY IMAGES (RICHARD LLOYD)



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12

BECAUSE

THE WORLD'S BEST DINNER PARTY WAS AT LUNCH.

THE ICONIC Manhattan restaurant on the ground floor of the Seagram Building opened in the summer of 1959. The Four Seasons will close next year, with plans to relocate, and Major Food Group (the trio behind Carbone, Santina, and Sadelle's) will take over with a new concept, a new name, and a look that promises to "restore and reinvigorate" the storied space. Mimi Sheraton, former *Times* restaurant critic—and, before that, consultant to the restaurant—bids it good-bye:

I knew the Four Seasons when it was all concrete blocks and hanging cables—I worked there from that point until it opened. My first impression was that it was sort of a nightmare of a place, but I knew that it was going to be something beautiful. The theme was very interesting: It stressed seasonal, natural, and local foods long before that was thought of very much by anyplace else. And they did a lot of their own fusion—like wasabi with shrimp—when nobody had ever heard of wasabi outside of a Japanese

Photograph by Matthew Pillsbury





restaurant. As it was explained to me, it was going to be the crossroads of the history and geography of food, because New York was the crossroads of the world.

My role was menu research. James Beard was also a consultant, and we all sat together and wrote menus and figured out how things ought to look. One of the most fun things was for about five weeks before the opening, every day at noon, we met at the Hotel Lexington, where they were operating the Hawaiian Room, and we tasted the Four Seasons menu. We did 35 dishes a day. That was wildly experimental and great fun.

I remember, specifically, a whole calf's liver, baked and braised and sliced like a roast. It's a Burgundian dish and a very beautiful one. It was *all* very beautiful. They brought huge garden baskets of raw vegetables to your table and said, "We can prepare any of these for you. Which would you like?" And they had wonderful hors d'œuvre wagons with all different kinds of salads and things on it, including a sausage tree. You could have veal, lamb, or beef in an elegant way, served tableside. People have stopped eating meat that way—it's much less expensive to plate it in the kitchen than to have a captain walking around, and it was wasteful to cook a whole roast. But the Four Seasons was heavy on service and personnel.

And then there was a fabulous dessert wagon. Three-tiered, with the most elaborate high cakes and pies and bowls of macédoine, and people usually chose two or three: I'll have a slice of this, and a slice of that, and give me a pear. It was all very grand, and everything changed with the seasons. The cummerbunds on the waiters and the plants and even the color of ink on the bills. The menus were beautiful: The covers were Japanese rice paper with silk thread. The furniture, as I remember it, had blond horsehair, which is fantastically perishable.

I learned a great deal. It was how I learned to be a critic, in seeing how much attention was paid to every element. Are the seats high enough? Are the blades on the steak knives strong enough? It took two weeks to choose the black pepper. So when I became a critic, I thought, *Well, what kind of salt are they using? What kind of pepper are they using?* All while realizing no one puts thought into it like they do. In those days, Joe Baum, the restaurant's founder, contacted people like John Cage, who supplied all the mushrooms. (The composer was also a mushroom forager.) He had a school in the Bronx that grew fresh herbs that came in pots several times a week. He contacted the famous Malabar Farm in Ohio trying to get some of their organic stuff, but they couldn't do it on a regular enough basis—from Ohio to New York in

Four Seasons Four Ways:



✦ Here's a fun thing that happened one day: I was having lunch with a whole group of businessmen, and a suitor sent me 400 white roses in a great big bouquet. He had it carried in by four waiters and put down on my table. That was the most romantic thing that has ever happened to me. Every man in the room was jealous, of course—jealous that they hadn't thought of doing that for somebody. The room is big enough to accommodate such a flamboyant gesture. Four hundred roses is a lot! It was hysterical. **MARTHA STEWART**



✦ As a ritual, I spend my birthday at the Four Seasons every year. It was the first restaurant that I went to when I arrived in New York in 1982, and I still remember where I was seated and the meal I had: the crab cakes, the rack of lamb, and a soufflé. It is the quintessential, classic American restaurant. **DANIEL BOULUD**



✦ The first time I went, it was not at all what I expected. The stark modernism of it threw me. And then, by the second time you go, you appreciate it. And then by the fifth time, you realize it's the most beautiful restaurant in the world. It is epic and cozy and elegant all at the same time. One thing I always marveled at was that if you put a water glass on the table, the lights from the ceiling sparkle around the water glass, and if you move the water glass, the lights follow it exactly. **GRAYDON CARTER**



✦ I don't like restaurants. My purpose for going is only for business meetings, and the Four Seasons is the most congenial place to have formal lunches. It's easy for people who go there regularly because they know exactly where they're sitting. This is not a place for experimentation or surprise. One of the maitre d's orders for me. It's nice to surrender. I have a standing thing, which is that I always pay for lunch. Or at least I assume I pay for lunch because they send the bill. **BARRY DILLER**

1959—for it to be practical. I mean, those were the things he had in mind before anybody said "local" or "organic."

All things considered, it has aged pretty well, although if you know how it looked originally, you're not really very happy with how it looks now. The height and the proportions create the same impression—especially in the daytime, when light comes through the chains—so the overall effect is big and airy and glossy, but the details are very different. They changed the color of the carpet. They put the wine-dispenser wall near the reservation desk in the Grill, which I think is abominable. It looks like a Coca-Cola soda-fountain stand. That would never, ever have been there while Philip Johnson and Phyllis Lambert, who oversaw the whole design, were in charge. The furniture is less beautiful, too; they used to have much better plantings. They've hung some terrible art in the Pool Room—terrible stuff. Last time I was there, there were people in tank tops. And I was quite stunned—I had lunch there twice last spring—at the croissant. First of all, there were none. When I asked for them, they brought out these terrible little knots of dough—all flaky, thick pastry—and I thought that was a pity. I think there was a good soup one day or something, but the crab cakes were not very good.

It's a grand place, and I don't think it will ever be the same again. First of all, the name belongs to Alex von Bidder and Julian Niccolini, the restaurant's two managing partners, and if Aby Rosen, who owns the Seagram Building, wanted the name, he would have had to have given them many millions of dollars. So he's saying he does not want it to be called the Four Seasons, which I think is ridiculous. It's so identified with the name that it's going to be meaningless.

But I love the people who will take it over. I think they're jolly and fine, and they work hard, and they're creative and funny. I send them advice that they don't ask for. I don't know what they plan to do, but I don't think they can do riffs on the original food, because nobody remembers the original food, and the original food was, in a way, not riffable. They're cruisin' for a bruise in a place that big and that serious. I mean, it's not Soho, it's not Tribeca, and it's not the West Village. It's Park Avenue in a major building of major proportions. It should reflect that kind of elegance and easy formality. Not corny formality. They should have a dress code. Men should wear jackets, and I think they need ties. It has to be a New York restaurant: the quintessentially urbane New York. I can see them having a roast beef sliced in a wagon that goes around, if they want to be really grand. **AS TOLD TO SIERRA TISHGART**



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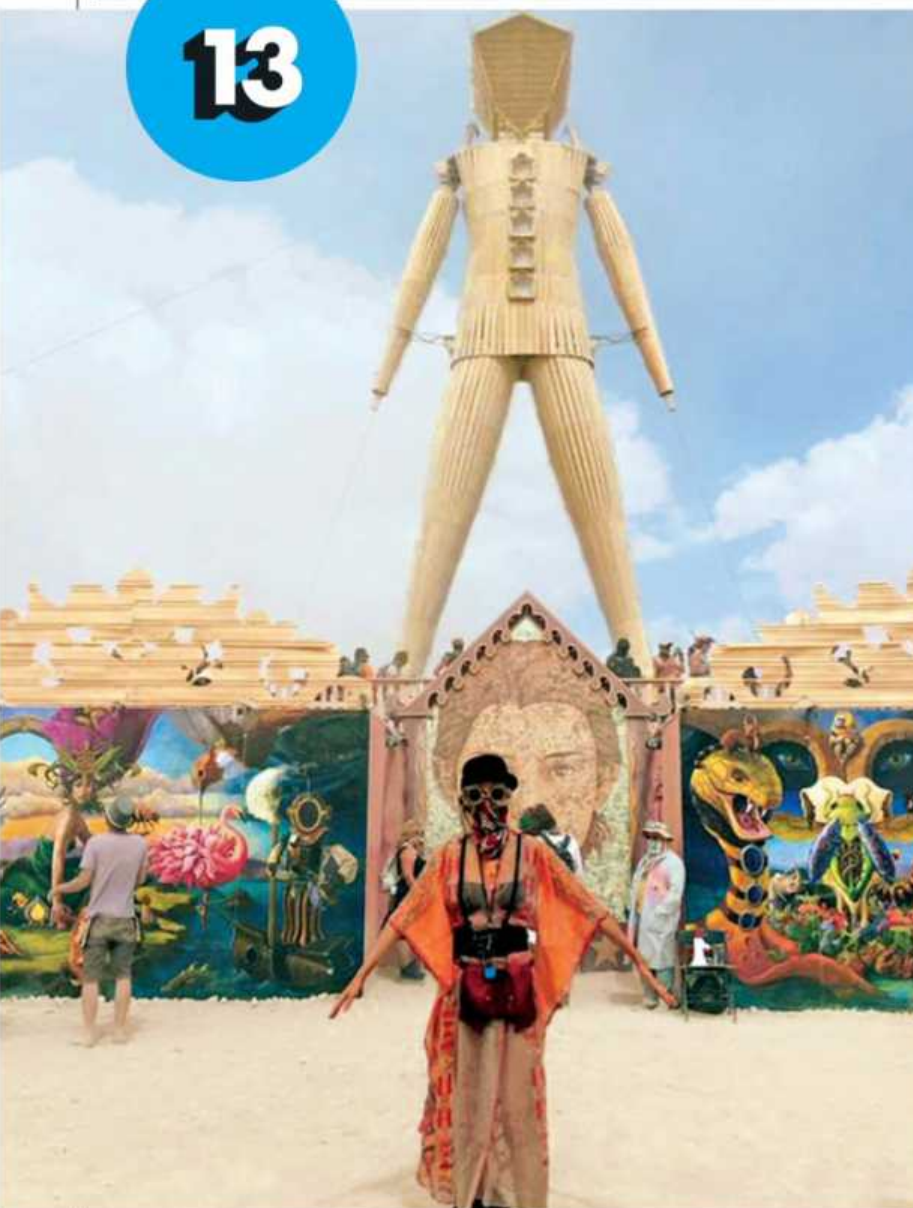
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13



BECAUSE

WENDI DENG'S RUMSPRINGA TOOK HER TO BURNING MAN.

FORTY-SEVEN YEARS AGO this month, a girl was born in communist China. She was raised in a house without hot water.

Three decades later, before it all ended, Wendi Deng had performed the steepest social climb in living history, as the wife of a news-magnate billionaire whose daughters will inherit portions of the family fortune equal to those of the half-siblings roughly Deng's own age.

The Deng-Rupert Murdoch split last year could have been the end of Wendi. It featured rumors about an affair with a British prime minister and a humiliating tale about a smutty diary supposedly authored by the Yale-educated Deng. ("He [Tony Blair] has such good body and he has really really good legs Butt.")

But Deng emerged from the muck better than ever. She does yoga with Arianna Huffington, parties with Demi Moore at Miami Beach, and has traded parenting tips with the Tiger Mom. She co-chaired the Met Gala this year. Then she jetted out to Burning Man. (Transparent coral muumuu, model's own.) Wendi's married life was fabulous, too, but could you really imagine Rupert among the Burners? The Black Rock Desert is no country for old men. For all the power she wielded as Murdoch's wife, turns out Wendi Deng is even better—and weirder—on her own.

MAUREEN O'CONNOR

No.

14

BECAUSE



(Kyra)



(Gaia)



(Tiffany)

A Kennedy, a Matisse, and a Trump ...
... are really friends.

Along with the children of Magic Johnson and Peter Brant and the self-proclaimed "Kris Jenner" of the group, a guy named Andrew Warren.

(No. 13)

And because David Rockefeller's 101st year has taken him around the world. Since his 100th birthday in June, he's been to Morocco, Maine, and California. Next up: Latin America.

PHOTOGRAPHS: WENDIMURDOCH/INSTAGRAM (DENG); PATRICK MCMULLAN (REMAINING)

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Because this gallery gets stuck in traffic.

LAST YEAR, when the artist-gallerist Jared Madere decided to move out of his Bed-Stuy apartment, two ideas came to mind. One was to head far out—to, say, Coney Island. The other was to move into a large truck. “For \$2,300, I’m a homeowner!” says Madere, who is 29, as he joyfully recalls the moment he bought the RV (off Craigslist) that he and his gallery, Bed-Stuy Love Affair, called home for much of the past year. “I had never been in an RV in my life.”

Madere’s plan was to move a show of work by Jacob Cruzen and Joseph Geagan from the apartment to the RV and drive down to Miami for Art Basel. He spent a solid month outfitting the ramshackle vehicle, painting it black, ripping out the interior, installing a bed in back, and adding bars over the windows. The result was very *Mad Max*. The artist called it “a goth carny bus.” And they got there five days late.

Back in New York, Madere camped outside Tomorrow gallery, a Long Island City strip club, and an East Village bar and in front of the Whitney.

“I am interested in the idea of showing art in a vehicle,” Madere says. “Like a cruise ship or like a *Snowpiercer* kind of scenario—like you have a glass train that never stops and you have work hung from wire on the ceiling. That would be fantastic.” **ANDREW RUSSETH**



BECAUSE

Our superstar experimental playwrights aren’t all that interested in moving to Broadway.

“I don’t know if I ever will, and I don’t ultimately care,” says **Annie Baker, the 34-year-old, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Flick* and *John* (among others).** “It’s definitely not a goal of mine.”

“TODAY, WE’RE MAKING Junglepussy juice,” says Junglepussy, the 24-year-old rapper born Shayna McHayle, once she’s finished introducing me to her mother, whose house we’re in, and her aunt and uncle, who are visiting from Trinidad for Thanksgiving. She’s got two albums, 30,000 Twitter followers—including Erykah Badu, who sends her messages like “Damn I love you girl”—and a gig at the Apollo Theater. But she’s serious about that juice: “I wish everybody would treat themselves like a plant,” she says. “You wouldn’t pour soda on plants.” She turns around and bends her lanky five-foot-ten frame down to the freezer to grab frozen strawberries before moving up to the fridge for carrots and ginger, then walks over to the aloe plant by the window, chops off an arm (“I get sad every time I cut one, but what the fuck you grow ‘em for?”), and grabs out of the cupboard a plastic jar customized with a sticker that reads JUNGLEPUSSY JUICE: ONE SIP TO SUCCESS.

About that name, which started as a Twitter handle: She says she’s not trying to shock, just express her love of leopard print (Twitter bio: “Everyone wants to be black so bad I wake up feeling so exclusive!”), and she stuck with it when she started releasing music as an F.I.T. student from East New York (first track: “Cream Team”). But as for what’s racy about it, she thinks most people have things backward. “The word *jungle* always seems to be the more disturbing word out of Junglepussy,” she says now. “There were the Pussycat Dolls, and there’s a band called Perfect Pussy, but they’re white, so they get the pass. I can’t be Junglepussy and black, but I just push through, especially when my mother says she doesn’t have a problem with it.”

As for the music, she’s joining the likes of comedic rappers like Cam’ron and *College Dropout*—era Kanye West, making emotional connections through well-timed jokes rapped like elastic, expanding and contracting around each insistent, hilarious punch line. And she may not even be the most distinguished performer in a citywide female rap scene that’s grown more idiosyncratic and collectively accomplished than ever, all without the help of record labels. Leikeli47 from Bed-Stuy’s hyper hot-weather hit “F**k the Summer Up” was handpicked by Jay Z as the first song on his very first Tidal playlist. DonMonique, from Brooklyn, who layers the boom-bap style of the early ’90s over slinky current-day menacing trap beats that got Pitchfork’s attention after just one EP. That’s all before mentioning rapper Dai Burger, who’s one of the few openly queer women in rap, and Nyemiah Supreme, who appears on Oxy-gen’s *Sisterhood of Hip Hop* (both from Queens), and the fairy-tale-loving Princess Nokia from Spanish Harlem and the Lower East Side.

But which of those women can say they’ve been invited to guest lecture at Yale? This September, Junglepussy gave a talk titled “Self Love. Bodacious Rap,” and last week she took her Junglepussy Juice tour to Columbia University for a healthy-eating workshop. “When Yale reached out, I thought it was a hoax, but they really followed through,” she says, pulling the fall-lecture-series program off its place of honor on the fridge. “I brought my mom. We wore power suits and looked like the Obamas.” **LAUREN SCHWARTZBERG**

18

BECAUSE

JUNGLEPUSSY WENT FROM EAST NEW YORK TO LECTURING AT YALE ON THE STRENGTH OF A SINGLE CALLED “CREAM TEAM.”

Photograph by Bobby Doherty





WASHINGTON, DC



GREENWOOD, DE



TEXAS-OKLAHOMA BORDER



RIDGELY, MD



MARGATE CITY, NJ



SAN JON, NM

No. 19

BECAUSE

THIS GUY IS RIDING HIS CITI BIKE ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

ONE NIGHT THIS PAST AUGUST, Jeffrey Tanenhaus, a corporate-event planner, checked out a Citi Bike from a dock near Gramercy Park and began a journey to cross the country on the blue, one-piece, aluminum-frame utility bike. “Riding a Citi Bike in New York was always the highlight of my day,” he says from Albuquerque. “Both my job and the lease on my apartment were ending, and I couldn’t stomach the thought of getting ‘just another job.’ I was out of options in New York, and I thought of the great American road trip: *What if I scaled up and used a Citi Bike?*”

How did you choose this particular bike?

I can usually tell within ten seconds if a bike is good or not. It’s like dating. The brakes are a good indicator, as is the ease of pedaling. A good bike is like cutting through warm butter, while a bad bike is like cutting through stale bread. When I saw this bike, I could tell right away it had only been on the street for a few hours.

Did you have a route in mind? I didn’t expect to get very far—down the Jersey Shore at the most—because these bikes aren’t meant to travel long distances. I tried to stay on as much flat ground as possible. I found these paths called Rails-to-Trails, which are old railroad tracks that have been ripped up and

turned into biking and hiking trails. I just kept discovering more and more vehicle-less flat trails.

I go about 40 miles per day. Right now, I’m traveling the Bike Route 66, which, like the highway, ends in Santa Monica.

What will happen to the bike? I would like to get it back to New York and return it to the ecosystem from where it came, but I can’t bring it on a train, so I’ll have to take it apart, box it up, and then rebuild it. But I first want to make it to the last part, to California.

I checked out my bike on the last day of my annual membership account. I was charged \$1,200, the maximum amount, which I thought was fair.

MATT GILES

PHOTOGRAPHS: JEFFREY TANENHAUS



cutors who just didn't understand how the sausage was made in Albany. "A lesser person would have folded," said Molo, who presented no defense. Molo didn't mention that Silver's campaign committee had paid him and another Silver lawyer \$1.5 million between January and June, a figure bound to end up higher still. It's a lot easier to stand tall when someone else is paying the bill.

While Silver's crimes are now well known, thanks to crusading U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara, it's the small stuff that makes him special. He wrote the city's finance commissioner to urge a rent reduction for a housing cooperative in his district without revealing that he and his relatives lived there. Caught by the *New York Times* using all his influence over 40 years to block affordable housing on a vacant lot near that four-building complex, effectively excluding blacks and Latinos from the area, Silver claimed the culprit was a Sheldon E. Silver, not him, a joke of a dodge blown away by the *Times*.

The jury that convicted Silver was the face of the city, led by a black and Latino majority, eight of them women. The 12 were a breath of fresh air in a state choking on fumes from the sausage factory, with more than 30 state leaders convicted, sanctioned, or indicted in the past ten years, enough for a caucus of their own. If his trade-offs were business as usual, the jury convicted business as usual. (Former Senate majority leader Dean Skelos was also found guilty of bribery and extortion on December 11.)

But even after Silver's indictment, Albany was fortifying its walls. A bill introduced by Democratic reformers in the State Senate to bar elected officials from paying for their criminal defense with campaign donations can't even find an Assembly sponsor; much less get a vote in the Senate. And the two houses agreed to conveniently disagree on whether a pol felon could still collect his pension, with the Senate passing one version of a constitutional amendment and the Assembly a different one, stalling the whole effort. The felons are still taking the peanuts.

WAYNE BARRETT



BECAUSE

SHELDON SILVER IS FINALLY A FELON.

HE'S LIVED LIKE a fugitive for years. The longtime Speaker of the New York State Assembly, Silver frequently traveled by air from his attached apartments in the Lower East Side to Albany, routing himself through Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., to run up an estimated 168,618 frequent-flyer miles in three years, at a \$20,219 cost to taxpayers. The most powerful man in state government through five governors—prior to his bust in January and extortion conviction last month—preferred five-hour sojourns to the one-hour direct flight, though no one who knows Silver thinks he spent them reading policy memos.

He once bumped into a friend at an airport and they wound up flying together. When the flight attendant came by with

peanuts, Silver took his bag, but the friend demurred. As the attendant continued up the aisle, Silver reproached him.

"Take the peanuts," he insisted, an epiphany as much as it was an instruction.

Silver's Foley Square trial grabbed headlines for weeks, with the normally dour 71-year-old smiling confidently at cameras, even as the evidence revealed he was more a contingent-fee king than a legislator, earning several times what he did as Speaker from a legal practice that never required him to cite a clause of case law. The jury found, among other things, that he had indeed funneled state grants to a doctor who delivered asbestos patients to his firm.

But defense attorney Steven Molo tried to convert Silver into a hero targeted by prose-

No. **21**

BECAUSE

OUR MAYOR AND OUR GOVERNOR WILL TURN DISPUTE OVER, SAY, TAX ABATEMENTS INTO BLOODSPORT.

FEBRUARY 23 ♦♦ Cuomo: "This will be the best relationship between a mayor and governor in modern political history when all is said and done." **MAY 27** ♦♦ De Blasio: "I don't know many leaders of the executive or legislative branch anywhere that ignore millions and millions of people and think it will not have a consequence." **JUNE 24** ♦♦ A "top Cuomo-administration official": De Blasio is "bumbling and incompetent." Cuomo, the next day: "Sometimes it's a little faster to talk off the record, as you know." **JUNE 30** ♦♦ De Blasio: Cuomo's actions were "revenge for some perceived slight." Cuomo's office: "For those new to the process, it takes coalition-building and compromise to get things done in government. We wish the mayor well on his vacation." **AUGUST 16** ♦♦ De Blasio's office: "What about the state's performance? ... What has the state been doing to prevent [Legionnaires'] disease?" **NOVEMBER 25** ♦♦ Cuomo spokesman: It's "clear the mayor can't manage the homeless crisis."





BECAUSE

THE PRESIDING JUDGE IS A TEENAGER.



G HAD MANAGED to become an 18-year-old high-school senior without ever once being arrested, which is not as easy as it sounds when you grow up in the projects of Brownsville, Brooklyn, erstwhile home to Mike Tyson and the murder capital of New York. G's arrest-free run, however, came to an end a few weeks ago, when he found himself engaged in a little dust-up at the school lunch room. It wasn't even G's beef. He was just sitting there with a friend when this guy came up and accused G's buddy of messing with his girlfriend. G took his friend's side; some harsh words were exchanged. Not that G thought much about it until after school when he was waiting at the B15-bus stop. There was that guy again, with his crew. It didn't take a genius to figure out what was going to happen next, especially after the guy smacked G in the face. G responded by body-slammng the guy, busting up his face some, then running like hell. The next morning, they got G out of class and took him down to the principal's office, where two cops from the 67th Precinct were waiting. This was how G came to be what they call a "respondent" at the Youth Court of the Brownsville Community Justice Center.

Down at Youth Court on Rockaway Avenue, there was nothing particularly unusual

about G's story. Since 2011, the court, where local teens ages 14 to 18 volunteer to serve as the judges, juries, and advocates, has heard around 250 similar cases a year. "Fights in school, shoplifting, truancy, pot smoking," said the project director, Lisa Bernard. "Whatever the authorities don't have the time, energy, or interest to deal with except to put young people into the system." Some of the kids who volunteer have legal ambitions, but others have, themselves, previously been through the Youth Court as respondents.

Not that G knew anything about that. He never heard of the Brownsville Youth Court before the cops gave him the piece of paper telling him where to show up. Arriving in baggy khakis and headphones, G evidenced a wary attitude as he met with Mikala Greenridge, 18, who as his "youth advocate" was assigned to plead his case. This was a stroke of luck for G, since Mikala was forthright in her belief that the court was one great big civics lesson for young people to help each other "figure out how the world works, since most adults either don't know, or frankly don't care, how we think and what to do about it except to hand out punishment."

Standard definitions of G's possible guilt or innocence did not come up during the interview. Instead, Mikala asked G whether he had clear goals for the future and if he thought of himself as a role model for anyone in the community. Thinking this over, G said, "Well, I'm not a saint," but he did feel the need to set a good example for his younger cousins. Asked if he felt he had anyone to apologize to for what happened, G said he felt justified since it was "basically self-defense" but that he'd already told his mom how sorry he was for "stressing her out."

Upon further contemplation, he added that maybe he should watch who he chilled with.

Still, G was apprehensive. Sounding more like a slightly frightened kid than the potential social problem he might have been seen as in a typical Brooklyn courtroom, he said, "I just hope the judge isn't mean."

On this account, G's fears were soon put to rest, since the "judge" turned out to be a poker-faced 16-year-old attired in nifty horn-rim glasses. The first person to speak was a 17-year-old "community advocate" (something like the prosecutor) who asked the jury to consider "the negative effects" G's altercation may have had on Brownsville. These included the possibility of "increased police activity" in the area, which was nothing anyone present deemed a good thing. The jury, six young women, asked questions primarily pertaining to what G might have learned from the incident.

In view of G's apology to his mother and general regret, it was recommended that he attend workshops on conflict resolution and employment readiness. After the final gavel, G anxiously asked project director Bernard if the proceedings were "going to go on my record." Informed no, he smiled for the first time. Plus, the jury, aware of G's interest in owning a fashion business, had suggested he enroll in a skills class in which he'd get some practical experience and be paid a small stipend. "Paid?" G asked incredulously.

Of course, no one was going to make him go to the workshops. But if he didn't, the Youth Court would have no alternative but to inform the city of his noncompliance, after which his case would be resubmitted to the Brooklyn courts. No problem with that, G said, standing up. "I'll be there."

MARK JACOBSON



R.J.
GRAZIANO



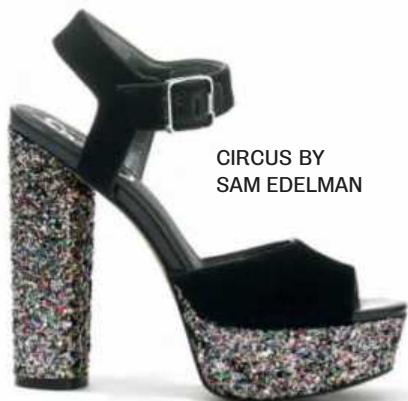
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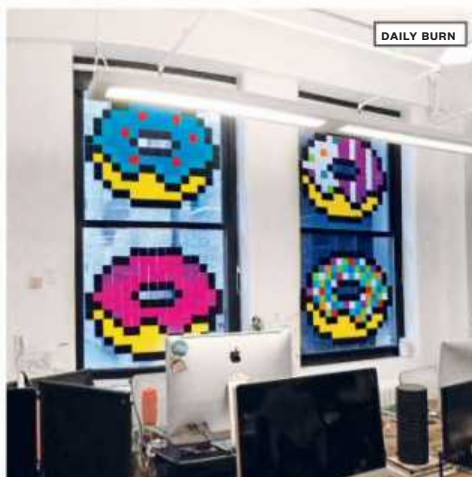
IT'S SORT OF LIKE that one uncle. You know who I mean—the cool uncle. The one you're excited to see at holidays because the rest of the time he's busy traveling and doing urbane things. Not young, maybe, but younger than your parents. In a creative industry. Interested in culture; has friends with wild hair who dress in expensive versions of everyday things. He has Bloomsbury-inspired dinner parties! Life can be curated, you suddenly see, and there's a textbook! *That's what I'll be like*, you think, maybe not consciously. He makes you mixtapes.

And then one day that same uncle shows up carrying a dish you saw in last week's paper—it involves pomegranate seeds. His denim blazer looks ridiculous. What are the kids listening to? He wants to know. Have you heard the new Joanna Newsom? Seen this web series? What about this distillery? You squirm with embarrassment. He is beyond parody—indeed, impervious to parody. He's vocally ambivalent about being a father and seems to think it's brave. He bums a cigarette. And is he hitting on your friends? He's definitely hitting on your friends.

That's dad-rock, you say coldly. No one goes there anymore. I'm neither shocked nor titillated. No, I didn't read that; isn't it a novel about a disaffected middle-aged couple draped in expensive fabrics? Or just another feature in "Sunday Styles"? Soon, it's not your uncle. It's you. One day, you see a silhouette artist you know being profiled. Later, a friend of a friend's band. I'm writing this piece for "Styles," says your friend. And you say: Wow. And, yes, I wear shorts to work. And, no, I don't mind when babies are in Park Slope bars. One more and it's a trend piece, you "joke." No, but seriously. Can you think of one more?

Yeah, you say, to your uncle. I'd love tickets to *Hamilton*. Really, that bilingual school is better? Huh. The new Joanna Newsom's good; it's super *Cloudbusting*-era Kate Bush. No, I have no idea what the kids are doing. But I'm so glad you're here; I'd miss you if you weren't.

SADIE STEIN



BECAUSE

THESE START-UPS HAD A POST-IT-ART WAR.

EMILY DUONG, at the time an art director for the Daily Burn, a fitness company, was looking out her office window on 26th Street and Sixth Avenue last December when she noticed a Post-it Santa in the window of digital agency Flightpath across the street. Convinced she could do better, she and her team of designers put up a Super Mario Post-it window and tweeted a picture of it to her neighbors: "You just got 'UPd!'"

Flightpath responded by adding a full holiday window, complete with menorah and Christmas tree.

It was on. Next, Duong and her colleagues created an image of the internet meme Nyan Cat, its rainbow tail stretching across five windows. But competition arrived from an unlikely direction: not across, but up. Five floors above the Daily Burn, the Samsung Accelerator had created a two-story mural of a

unicorn, vomiting a rainbow.

Next, Cocktail Kingdom, on 25th Street, made a *My Little Pony* cartoon. Samsung did a tribute to the Donkey Kong arcade game. Flightpath struck back with a *Star Wars* window. The most ambitious endeavor by far was Samsung's *Broad City* window, a two-story extravaganza. But Duong sees things differently: "I think we won."

NATE JONES

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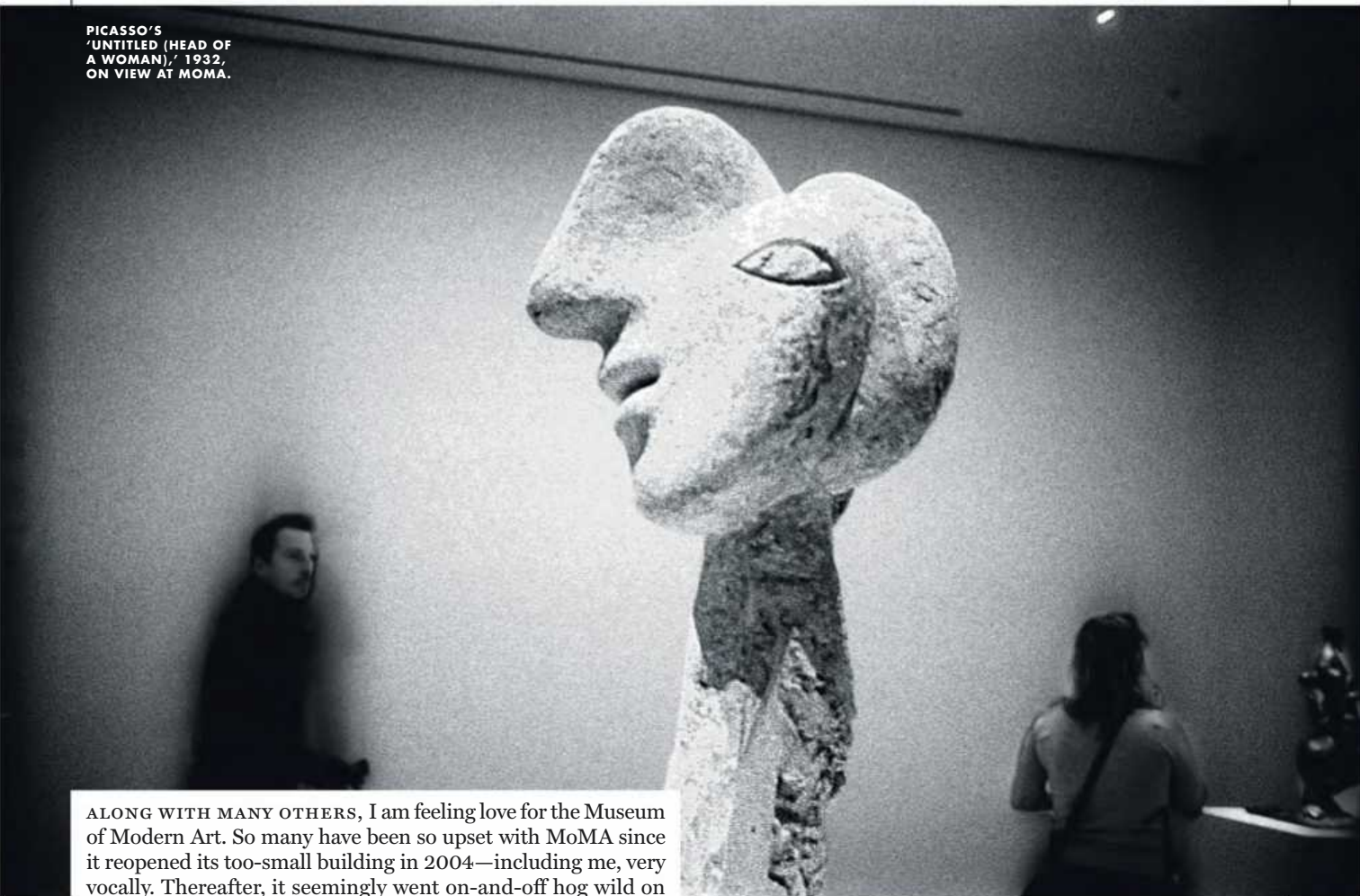
COLLECTION 9/11 MEMORIAL MUSEUM, GIFT IN MEMORY OF THE COURAGEOUS FIREFIGHTERS FROM ENGINE 54/LADDER 4/BATTALION 9 KILLED AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001. PHOTO BY BRUCE WHITE.

25

BECAUSE

YES, I'VE TALKED A LOT OF TRASH ABOUT MOMA, BUT IT'S REALLY PRETTY GREAT.

PICASSO'S
'UNTITLED (HEAD OF
A WOMAN),' 1932,
ON VIEW AT MOMA.



ALONG WITH MANY OTHERS, I am feeling love for the Museum of Modern Art. So many have been so upset with MoMA since it reopened its too-small building in 2004—including me, very vocally. Thereafter, it seemingly went on-and-off hog wild on anything performance-oriented, hip, kind of politically correct, or otherwise guaranteed to generate selfies, not least of which were the “Rain Room,” Tim Burton, and Björk shows. Yet amid all this, MoMA reminded us just how indispensable and, at times, spectacular it can be: The current “Picasso Sculpture” show is a mind-boggling array of canny sculpture by this foundational Modernist master who changed the course of art history, and with it MoMA addressed its own lack of space for such shows, undertaking, at who knows what cost, a project to de-install the entire fourth-floor permanent collection of Modern painting and sculpture to make room. The year had begun with the holdovers of 2014’s stellar “Henri Matisse: The Cut-Outs” and the Robert Gober retrospective. Later, in the garden, we saw Pierre Huyghe’s incredible contemporary sculpture of a classical nude with an enormous living beehive on her head, as well as surveys of Jacob Lawrence and Joaquín Torres-García and, by Klaus Biesenbach himself, the Wael Shawky show at PS1—one of the best of the year.

JERRY SALTZ

No.

26

BECAUSE

**PUBLIC ART
FINALLY
GOT A
SENSE
OF
HUMOR.**



PHOTOGRAPH: ETIENNE FROSSARD/COURTESY OF TWO TREES
MANAGEMENT CO.; OY/YO SCULPTURE BY DEBORAH KASS.



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BECAUSE

THE GARMENT DISTRICT ISN'T THE MEATPACKING DISTRICT.

IN 1957, the West 30s loomed large enough in the national imagination to provide the setting for a film noir called *The Garment Jungle* (tagline: “Life is cheap in the Garment Jungle”). Today, the union-busting vipers in that B-classic are gone, and the neighborhood that then produced 95 percent of America’s clothing now makes 3 percent. Yet the movie and today’s streets barely look different. Cigarette-clutching immigrants trundle rolling racks down the sidewalks at high speed. Button and trimmings stores—as well as specialists in esoterica like fabric-covered belts—still line the side streets. Fashion shows don’t take place here, but everyone in the industry is around constantly. Elizabeth Currid-Halkett, a professor at USC, and her MIT colleague Sarah Williams recently did a study of the movements of designers and interns and found that even those whose studios were in Brooklyn or Queens made 77 percent of their work-related trips to the area between 34th and 42nd Streets. “One of the reasons the Garment District still works,” she says, “is that people still use it all the time.” A manufacturer may produce most of its clothing overseas, but for a prototype needed in a few hours, FedEx isn’t fast enough. “You see a lot of interns running down the street carrying multiple rolls of fabric, people carrying patterns,” says Kaelen Haworth, who’s part of the CFDA’s incubator program that backs up-and-coming labels.

You also find a concentration of super-specialized skills. Ask Haworth about her zipper guy: “We don’t know each other’s names, but he’s kind of an institution,” one who always has a quip for her—not to mention the right zipper. The old European immigrants are now mixed with people from China, India, anywhere. But it’s not all start-ups. Anna Sui started her business in the Garment District and stayed. Starting out, Sui says, “when I was kind of stumped for what to do, I would just kind of walk around and look in all the different textile stores to see what they had.”

The landlords might have thrown those stores out long ago, but in 2009, a trade group called Save the Garment Center was able to help thwart a zoning change, keeping the neighborhood devoted to industry. So the button stores remain, and so do the old-school Italian restaurants that serve the garment guys. “They’re like, ‘Why aren’t you sitting down for like a ten-course lunch?’” says Haworth with a laugh. “There are still people who do that up here.” VÉRONIQUE HYLAND



PHOTOGRAPH: WALTER SANDERS/THE LIFE PICTURE COLLECTION/GETTY IMAGES



The Garment District
in the 1960s.

28

BECAUSE

THE BRUJAS ARE TOO COOL FOR SKATER BOYS.



IT WAS IN A SMALL SKATE PARK on 157th and River Avenue where Sheyla Grullon, 24, and Arianna Maya Gil, 22, forged a connection three years ago over being the only girl skaters in their Bronx neighborhood. They began throwing parties together, branding themselves the Brujas—the witches. Before long, they'd formed a loose collective of young, mostly Latinas with a set of common interests: skateboarding, gender and race politics, New York City, anti-imperialism, partying, inclusivity. The stuff of Larry Clark's dreams, if Larry Clark cared about millennial activism.

On a mild late-fall afternoon, Gil (second from left), the Brujas' de facto mouthpiece, met up with Grullon and a third member named Nesa. They were the only girls in the crowded park, but they didn't stand out unless you looked closely at Gil's baggy sweatshirt. Covered in yellow cursive lettering, it read: PROTECT YA PUSS.

Grullon, who studies photography at La Guardia Community College in Queens, noticed the slogan for the first time. "Where'd you get that shirt?" she asked.

Gil glanced down and straightened the fabric to show off the full text. "It's made by this ill underwear company that fucks with us," she explained. "They came to our party." (The Brujas occasionally host parties called *Sucia*, which roughly translates to "dirty girl.")

Now that the word is getting out about the Brujas, the girls are trying to figure out a way to earn money from the project.

"It's increasingly hard to say what Brujas is, but a lot of women identify with it," Gil said. "I want it to keep being furthered as an art concept, for sure."

"We're trying to get merch," Grullon added. "Brujas shirts and stuff like that, so we can sell it."

"One thing I was thinking—we should sell a weed line," Gil suggested. "That's, like, mad profitable."

Gil touched the front of her PROTECT YA PUSS sweatshirt. "This lady wanted to collab with us. I don't know, maybe we could have our own underwear with them," she said, her voice blooming with enthusiasm. "That would be *fuego*."

CARRIE BATTAN

No. 29 Because this teenager discovered the genetic mutation that gave her the liver cancer she beat at 12.



“WHEN I TURNED 12, I found out that I had a rare liver cancer called fibrolamellar hepatocellular carcinoma. I remember I couldn't pronounce the name, no matter how many times I tried. I was in the hospital bed, just reading the name over and over again. My doctors caught it early, but even when it was gone it wasn't really over. Every time I looked in the mirror it was like, *Oh, look, my stomach has a huge scar*.”

When I got to high school, I started working at a lab in Mount Sinai, and during one of my regular checkups, I asked my surgeon why no one had ever done a gene-sequencing of fibrolamellar. He said, “You should.” When I was 17, the study was accepted in *Science*. Now I'm a sophomore at Harvard and seven years cancer-free.”

ELANA SIMON, AS TOLD TO LAUREN SCHWARTZBERG

PHOTOGRAPHS: STEPHANIE GRIFFIN (SKATERS); COURTESY OF ELANA SIMON

**Andrea
MARTIN**

**Campbell
SCOTT**

**Tracee
CHIMO**

**Daniel
DAVIS**

**David
FURR**

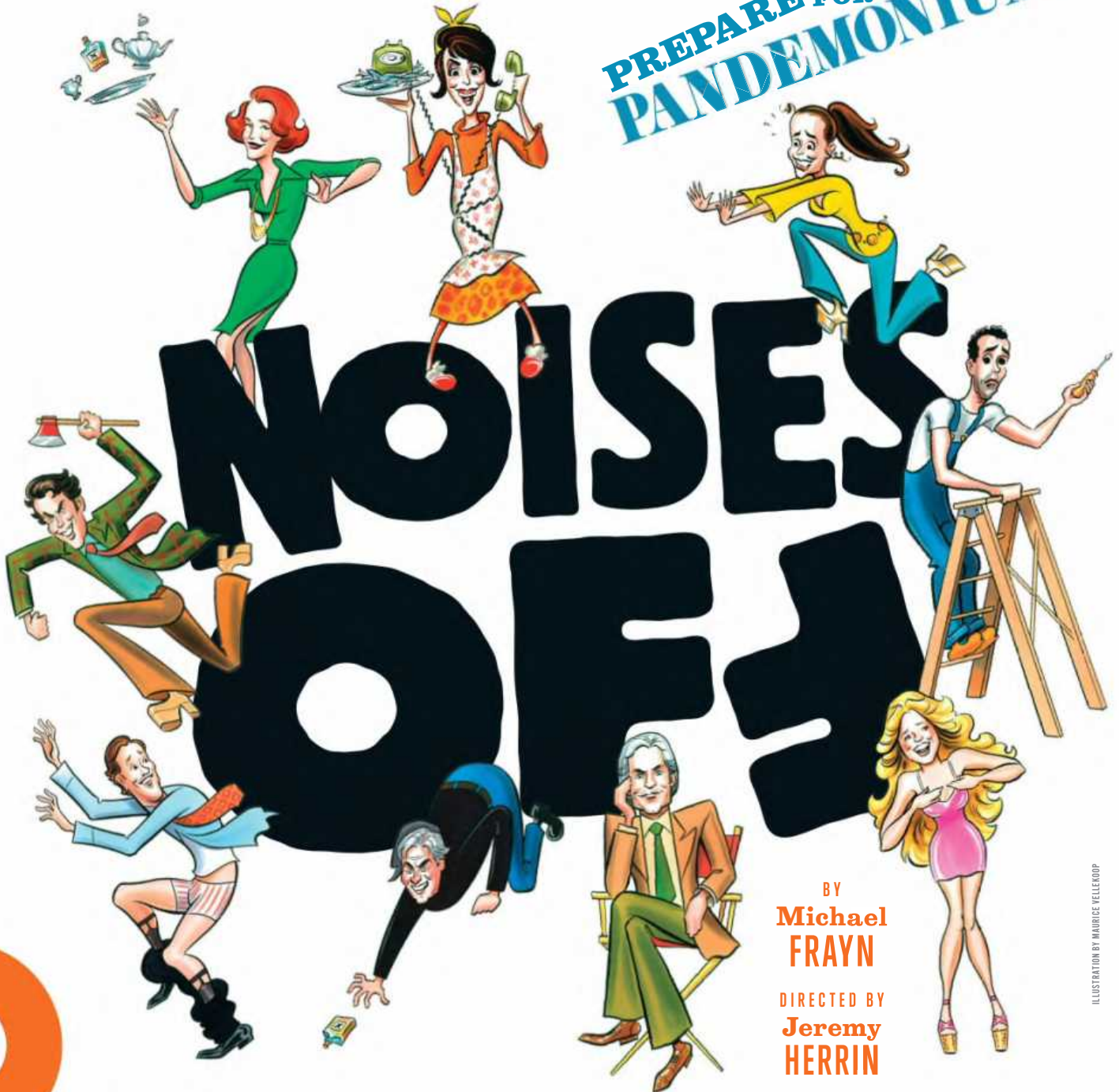
**Kate
JENNINGS GRANT**

**Megan
HILTY**

**Rob
McCLURE**

**Jeremy
SHAMOS**

**PREPARE FOR
PANDEMONTIUM.**



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BECAUSE

EARLY-ADOPTER SENIORS HAVE TOTALLY TAKEN OVER THIS RIDE-SHARING APP.

VIA, the very easy-to-use ride-share start-up, works like a mix between Uber and the city bus, offering rides between 110th Street and the southernmost tip of Manhattan for \$5, yet it has spent almost no money on advertising. But word of mouth has made it strangely popular with one group: senior citizens. Twenty-seven percent of Via riders are over 55, with 10 percent of those checking in at over 65.

"I was one of the first, actually," says Elaine Appelle, 65, who joined after her Upper East Side-building manager sent

around a flyer "suggesting we avail ourselves of the opportunity." Appelle says she helped debug the system, emailing in if she noticed any kinks in the app and acting as a de facto marketer. "I actually told someone who I was seated next to at Thanksgiving dinner," says Harriett Gordon, 81, who likens it to the ride-shares she used from Riverdale to Manhattan before express-bus service started when she was younger. "My granddaughter downloaded the app for him on his cell right then."

Adele Ribolow Berk thinks she heard

about it from *Crain's*, but, at 83, she says, she can't quite remember. "The nicest thing is I always manage to get the front seat."

"We've tried Uber, but it's more expensive and I like the idea of having people get on," says Jo, 86, who started using Via when her husband, Dick, 88, moved here from Alaska in September 2012. "We were having a hard time at first, and they were really helpful in teaching us to order a car, so I baked them bread and sent it to headquarters with a driver. They got a kick out of that!"

LAUREN SCHWARTZBERG

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LEVI

Garin
CREEL

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Michael
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She Loves Me benefits from Roundabout's Musical Theatre Fund with lead gifts from The Howard Gilman Foundation and Perry and Marty Granoff.

WILLIAMSBURG IS ABOUT TO FLOAT AWAY.

IN EARLY AUGUST, an odd flyer appeared in a Greenpoint deli: “Brooklyn Sea Captain Seeking Crew!” The captain was a longtime Brooklyn contractor—“40+ years”—looking for a 12-person crew of trustworthy, hardworking, and “mentally stable” individuals. The boat was a 158-foot wooden tall ship called *The Peacemaker*, which would follow an itinerary from Florida to Panama, through the canal, on to Australia, across the Indian Ocean and Mediterranean Sea, then back to New York.

“So, it sounds like you might want to go sailing around the world?” Van Vollmer, the captain, said one recent afternoon. Vollmer, who is 86, was talking on the phone to one of the 200 or so people who have applied to join his crew. He was inside a shuttered Williamsburg sushi restaurant where he currently lives with the first person to join his crew: Carl, his twin brother. Both Vollmers are semi-retired contractors, and the owner of the sushi restaurant, which the Vollmers had renovated, had offered it as a temporary residence. Raised in Greenwich, the Vollmers began sailing when they were 7. Van went to Korea with the Navy at 19, got married, and helped start a financial newspaper in Indiana. The paper collapsed, and so did the marriage; in 1978, he moved to New York, where Carl lived. They have lived together in Williamsburg and Greenpoint more or less ever since.

“I’m not in tune with the millenniums,” Vollmer said, his white hair shooting in constantly shifting directions. The applicants for the boat tended to be younger, and male, and included an event planner, a graphic designer, an app developer, several personal trainers, and two members of the French Foreign Legion. None smoked, which surprised Van, and all had Gmail addresses, which confused him.

The Vollmers’ plan had its origins in 2013, when a wealthy friend called Van to say he was planning to buy a boat and sail around the world. Might Van serve as captain? Vollmer spent two years considering ships for sale in Germany, Turkey, and eventually Key West, where he found *The Peacemaker*, owned by a Christian sect called the Twelve Tribes. The Tribes had used it as a missionary tool, but the group’s younger members had lost interest in sailing, and they offered it to Van for \$3 million. The Vollmers had hoped to set sail on August 31—their 86th birthday—but several months later, they still hadn’t taken possession of *The Peacemaker*. (Their backer says he’s waiting for a Venezuelan bond deal to come through.) Van had already selected several crewmates—the French Foreign Legionnaires for security, a lawyer for dealing with maritime law—though many of them were waiting for the ship to actually arrive before fully committing. His girlfriend, June Ferguson, agreed to be the third official member of the crew, but only for short spurts, so she could go home to see her family. She and Van had been high-school sweethearts, then didn’t see each other for six decades, until 2008, when he called her up. They’ve talked almost every night since.

Van, who has no children, promised June that he would live to 100, which meant more than a decade at sea, if he ever got there. The flyer hadn’t mentioned that the Vollmers plan to sail around the world, over and over, until they die. At that point, the crew will have one final duty: toss them into the sea. “I want to go over the side and swim with the fishes,” Van said. “I won’t know how it feels, but my soul, or whatever is left of me, that part will.”

REEVES WIEDEMAN



Because we’re colonizing Utah.

IN A COFFEE SHOP in Soho, an artist with foppish hair is hunched over a table, reviewing my passport application for the little-known nation of Zaqistan. It’s all very official—he has an application printed on Zaqistani government letterhead and a red stamp that he presses onto my paperwork. It takes less than five minutes to become a citizen of the Republic of Zaqistan, which anyone who’s ever dealt with a consulate knows is nothing short of a miracle. Of course, whether or not you consider the passport legitimate depends on whether or not you consider Zaqistan legitimate. “I figured the Bush administration had fucked up foreign policy so bad that I could do a better job,” Zaq Landsberg, now 30, told me. So he did what any disillusioned millennial with an inflated sense of his own abilities and \$600 to spare would do: He bought a parcel of land in remotest Utah off eBay, issued a declaration of secession, and ordained himself head of state. He made a national flag (a giant gold squid on a red background) and choose a motto. “Quispiam Ex Nusquam”—Latin for “something from nothing”—reflects Zaqistan’s climate: completely inhospitable. What little wildlife there is is mostly of the creepy-crawly variety—lizards and snakes—and all water has to be “imported.” Which is one reason it got awkward when Landsberg started receiving dozens of emails from people in Pakistan asking if they could apply for citizenship. “Why Pakistan specifically?” I asked. “I guess because stuff’s not great there,” he ventured.

JESSICA ROY



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BECAUSE

I PLAYED IN 101 REC-LEAGUE GAMES THIS YEAR. (SO FAR.)

I'M NOT THAT GOOD AT SPORTS. I'm okay-to-good at softball, decent at basketball under the right circumstances, mostly a liability in football, and a ghastly, inhuman disaster in soccer. But just in the past year I've played on two outdoor-soccer teams, an indoor-soccer team, three softball teams, as well as in a weekly semi-organized pickup football game and a weekly semi-organized basketball game that goes almost until midnight on a lonely block of Chinatown miles from my apartment. In one week in early May, I played one game each of soccer, basketball, and football and two of softball. If it were not impossible logistically, physically, and not-provoking-my-wife-to-divorce-me-ly, I would do it every night.

Wherever you are in New York, there is probably a game being squeezed in nearby. You have to make compromises to engage, in this city, in activities that require permanently open spaces that could be used far more profitably for condos—and something about that extra challenge makes the escape of chasing a ball feel all the more freeing. I've seen softball games played on concrete in Tompkins Square Park and McCarren Park; there are hockey games at Chelsea Piers that start at 11:30 at night. (Says one participant: "I'm not home until 1:30 or 2 a.m. depending if we have beers." Me: "I like that you still have a beer after." Him: "More than one." Another guy on the thread: "Hockey players!")

Games are a way to *be* in the city in a manner that I wouldn't otherwise have time for. I've hustled against a basketball team of sculptors, painters, photographers, and installation artists (they were good!) and against the media-league softball juggernaut that is the *High Times* Bonghitters. I've been in a softball game in which my team's best hitter was an Irishman whose only previous experience swinging a bat was cricket. And I've learned that there are few better places for meditation than a soccer field on a Brooklyn pier or Riverside Park at about 107th Street, at the best softball field in the city. The sun sets behind home plate over the Hudson River and the highway, which is bad for the right-fielder's sight line but good for the soul.

BEN MATHIS-LILLEY

No. 33

BECAUSE

LIFE AS A MOLE PERSON MIGHT NOT BE THAT BAD.

ON A BRIGHT AUTUMN day on the Lower East Side, the architect James Ramsey opens a metal door and ducks into a dark warehouse that, in a TV drama, would be frequented by dead-eyed mobsters. Ramsey, the founder of the architecture firm Raad Studio, steps into a pool of intense light beneath an aluminum sky and strolls around a miniature Eden. Pathways wind through a contoured chain of tiny mountains, densely furred with ferns, herbs, ground cover, and other flora. The overhead glare floods one verdant hillside and peters out at the edge of the luminescent cone. The energy that pours from the ceiling is honest-to-goodness sunlight, harvested 20 feet above our heads and piped in through Lucite tubes. Welcome to the Lowline, the future of urban nature.

It's a dry run for Ramsey's ultimate goals: to convert an abandoned trolley station below Delancey Street into a park and cultivate the much-further-reaching technology he's developed. Right now, architects design tall buildings to absorb the maximum daylight, which usually means coating them with glass. But if future versions of the Lowline sun-catchers became compact and cheap enough, they could make subterranean New York more habitable, redeem dreary homes, and funnel sunshine into the fattest skyscrapers, improving cubicle and mail-room days immeasurably. Part of the installation's charm is that you experience only a brief *Huh?* moment before the whole thing seems perfectly, well, natural. After all, anyone who's ever watered a spider plant in a dark New York apartment has some indoor survivalist skills, and we have all accustomed ourselves to indoor burrowing out of simple necessity. The Lowline asks us to take the next step and descend below-ground for pleasure, simply because it's nice down there. Already on the Lowline, the plantings have begun to compete. (The mint is insurgent and threatens to take over.) If plants can be fooled into thinking they're outdoors, perhaps the human body can too.

JUSTIN DAVIDSON

No. 34

BECAUSE

There's a lawn on the roof of Barclays Center.



And a farm at JFK's JetBlue terminal.



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THIS PLACE HAS BEEN SHOWING HOW BLACK LIVES MATTER FOR 90 YEARS.

No. 36



A First Fridays party in the Schomburg Center courtyard.

FOR SOME, Harlem's Schomburg Center is simply their local New York Public Library. But it's also where you could have heard, recently, a lecture on Nat Turner, a scholarly discussion of the Young Lords Party (a Puerto Rican nationalist group), or a conversation with Ta-Nehisi Coates. The library, around since 1925, also functions like a museum, with rotating exhibitions—next up, “Black Suburbia: From Levittown to Ferguson” and “Unveiling Visions: The Alchemy of the Black Imagination”—meant to introduce visitors to the center's vast collection of art, film, and rare books and manuscripts. There's also a gift shop filled with books by James Baldwin, Malcolm X, and Maya Angelou—as well as everything else that can be black: posters of African art, a Kwanzaa kinara, an Aretha Franklin CD. And there are, of course, Black Lives Matter T-shirts. It's all a physical reminder—one I've lately sought out more and more—that the current political movement is built on a legacy that's both deep and wide. **REMBERT BROWNE**

AND BECAUSE

POLICE ARE FINALLY SORT OF TRYING TO LISTEN.

long as an officer always seeks to defuse confrontation. Julian walked his first New York patrol beat in 1970, and he was living happily in retirement when, shortly after the death of Eric Garner, NYPD commissioner Bill Bratton recruited him to help reform the department. The program Julian devised with a small team is part of a three-day course designed to emphasize the *civil* in cop-civilian relations. The curriculum combines both the science and art of policing. Officers learn new physical-control techniques that avoid the neck and head, and ways to work as a team to subdue a resisting civilian. Julian's section, called Smart Policing, empha-

size the way a cop's own mental and physical well-being are essential to keeping a cool head. During a six-hour pilot version of Smart Policing I watched on video, sergeants worked through role-playing scenarios based on real police encounters. One scene involved three teenagers sitting in a stairwell, playing loud music. Imagine, Julian said, the teenagers turn down the music, but one of them yells out at the officers as they walk away. The cops circle back, escalating the confrontation. “Why?” Julian asked. “What was the objective? To get them to turn down the music. They did. So walk away.” The sergeants recognized the situation: a routine moment when a small incident fails to stay small. The training program rolled out in January, and by February 2016, it will have reached the entire department. Already, civilian complaints in October were down 11 percent from the same time last year. Julian acknowledges that training alone will not change the nature of the NYPD; the values need to be reinforced in guidelines and recruitment practices. “I am only the vehicle,” he said. “The driver of this training is Bill Bratton.” **D. W. GIBSON**

PHOTOGRAPH: CHERYL LATHAN/COURTESY OF THE SCHOMBURG CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN BLACK CULTURE

Jackson Pollock

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Jackson Pollock. *Untitled*. c. 1950. Ink on paper. The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Gift of Jo Carole and Ronald S. Lauder in honor of Eliza Parkinson Cobb. © 2015 Pollock-Krasner Foundation/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

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38

BECAUSE

WHATEVER YOU'VE HEARD, INDEPENDENT RETAIL IS THRIVING.

TO BE A SHOPPER in this city is to experience loss. We all carry memories of awnings past, and reflexively look for vanished haunts: the paperback bookstore that also rented VHS tapes, the toy shop with the Power Ranger knockoffs, the diner with the foul coffee and the friendly vibe. Some businesses simply go obsolete. Others wither after the owner dies, or discovers that his partner's been embezzling for years. But whenever a little store closes, we credit that same demonic force: the rent. It can feel like a whole ecosystem is being obliterated by corporate juggernauts, and sometimes it is. When a cluster of old buildings housing a dozen businesses came down along Broadway in the Seventies a few years ago, they were replaced by a CVS and a Marshalls—that's it. Some high-rent blocks sit empty, zombies chasing a long lease.

Yet independent stores endure and even proliferate, like pines on a rocky

mountaintop. Each is fragile; the species is ineradicable. In ethnic enclaves, new New Yorkers scabble together savings and open up sari shops or groceries. Many fail, some survive. Food, at least, is one retail sector that Amazon can't wipe out.

The drugstore juggernauts are nearly in retreat. The big three are in the process of consolidating—Walgreens owns Duane Reade and is attempting to buy Rite Aid—dampening a boom market among pharmacy-school graduates. The result, says Frank Buonagurio, the owner of Frank's Pharmacy in Jackson Heights, is that “young pharmacists can't get work, but they can get a little money from their family and rent a location. Drive around Queens: There's corner stores everywhere.” After fire gutted his own store last year, Buonagurio moved his two blocks away and discovered a completely different customer base. “In the old store, nobody would spend more than a dollar on hand lotion. Now we have beautiful soaps and \$10 hand lotions. But we still offer the same service.” He still stocks the cheap stuff, too. The fire almost wiped out his business; attentiveness resurrected it.

Data on independent stores is sketchy, but according to the Department of Labor, the total number of retail businesses climbed from 27,735 in 2003 to 32,389 a decade later—an increase of 16 percent. Perhaps a fifth of those are chain stores, but their proportion appears to stay relatively stable, suggesting that the trend, for indies, is gently upward. But, of course, mom-and-pop stores are exquisitely vulnerable to economic fluctuations, and in many outer-borough neighborhoods, an abundance of crappy stores leaves residents hungering for, rather than fearing, Target. Nor are all chains created equal: Who minds another Shake Shack?

In certain situations, rapacious landlords with muscle can actually make life easier for local businesses. Whereas co-op owners on the Upper West Side may love the idea of having a cute bookstore downstairs but don't want an extra \$1,000 a month in their common charges, a developer like Brooklyn's Two Trees can curate a charming retail mix as a marketing tool. (And has done so, at its Domino sugar-factory site.) Youngwo & Associates is taking a similar approach to the landmarked Bronx General Post Office. “We want to continue the local experience,” says project manager Alexandra Escamilla. “The businesses that get it are the ones who are already there, who understand that there's demand for things that speak to the neighborhood's roots.” JUSTIN DAVIDSON

Photograph by Marc Yankus

No. **39**

BECAUSE

SOMETIMES CHAIN SHOPPING ISN'T TERRIBLE.

WE THINK OF COSTCO membership as a perk of suburban life. Its advantages are reserved for the owners of wide-bodied vehicles and detached homes—people with the means to haul and store items purchased in absurd bulk and at an outrageously low cost. Seventy-two Eggo waffles (\$9.99). World-class rotisserie chicken (\$4.99—for the whole glorious bird). New Yorkers are stuck picking up a single, sweating half-gallon of 2 percent from the iffy refrigerator at the bodega for \$5.99. Or are we? In Sunset Park, in the shadow of Industry City to the north and the BQE to the east, sits Costco Warehouse No. 318, the company's improbable Brooklyn outpost. In the words of one Yelp reviewer: "It looks like a Costco, it smells like a Costco and feels like a Costco, but it's really not Costco. It's a bizarre location that probably should not be open." It's true—this isn't the typical Costco experience. The competition for parking is fierce and frustrating; space-hunters must stalk departing customers through the lot, then lie in wait as their prey attempts to stuff 12 rolls of Bounty into a subcompact Zipcar. Traffic is no better inside the store, where customers steer hulking carts with little regard for the shins of their fellow shoppers. (New Yorkers shop like they drive: offensively.) The checkout area is like Ellis Island in its heyday—the lines are long, disputatious, polyglot. Sunset Park Chinese hefting sacks of rice jockey with Bensonhurst Italians toting jumbo boxes of Barilla. Williamsburg Hasidim stocking up on kosher dills outmaneuver South Slope bobos straining under the weight of 15-pound resealable pouches of quinoa. But if you can brave such a scene, you need not cede any bargain to the denizens of the subdivisions. You can meet friends at Black Seed on Saturday and pick up a 72-count box of Bagel Bites on Sunday—if you can find room for them in your apartment.

JOHN SWANSBURG



PHOTOGRAPH: BOBBY DOHERTY/NEW YORK MAGAZINE (CHICKEN)

No. **41**

BECAUSE

New York makes the best reality-show villains.



ONE CLASSIC NEW

York dream goes something like this: You move to the city, achieve something notable, and earn the adoration of the world. The advent of reality TV, though, changed this process radically, allowing people to become famous not for some great achievement but simply by striving to become famous. This might be why New Yorkers have proved so good at reality TV, from *Real Housewife* turned mogul Bethenny Frankel to mogul turned Real Presidential Candidate Donald Trump. In 2015, to the canon was added *The Bedford Stop*, a web-distributed series of episodes of ... something. Each sub-six-minute episode is a documentary-ish look at four young women who recently moved to Williamsburg "to pursue their dreams": Sarah ("The boy-crazy one"), Olena ("You never know what will come out of her mouth"), Melissa ("We never know where she is"), and Alex ("The one who makes sure everyone gets home"). From these initial descriptions, you might

think these women sound less like a bunch of dreamers than a group of institutionalized individuals visiting the city on a day pass. The online reaction wasn't kind: "The Worst People in Williamsburg Made a Reality Show," read one headline on Patch. And it's true that nothing much happens to them. They go to brunch and look at Tinder and drink and dress up for Halloween. But to focus on that—the overwhelming, even maddening pointlessness of the enterprise—is to miss the show's ingenious innovation. If previous reality-TV stars boldly eliminated the need for any sort of achievement, *The Bedford Stop* further streamlines the process by eliminating the need for reality TV itself. It's just four women with a cameraman and the unshakable confidence that their lives are special and enthralling. Being seen and celebrated for pursuing their dreams is, in fact, the very dream they've come here to pursue. It's the New Yorkiest show ever made.

ADAM STERNBERGH



42

BECAUSE

AFFORDABLE HOUSING CAN LOOK LIKE THIS.



The view from a one-bedroom in Hunter's Point South, a new affordable-housing building in Queens.

No. 43

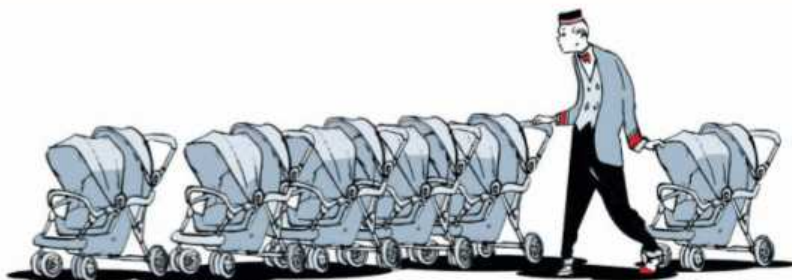
Because the city is upping its IQ.

Just a few of New York City's recent and soon-to-be "smart" innovations:

- ♦♦ By July, streets will be lined with **500 Wi-Fi pillars that will double as phone-charging ports**, providing the world's fastest municipal network.
- ♦♦ The new Hudson Yards development project will use motion sensors **to monitor residents' health and activity levels** (if they opt in).
- ♦♦ The GPS-equipped bus fleet allows **riders to receive text-messages or use an app to get updates** about arrivals.
- ♦♦ Some water meters can now transmit usage data wirelessly, already **saving the city \$3 million a year** by eliminating in-person meter readings and reducing billing disputes.
- ♦♦ In parts of Brooklyn and the Bronx, the NYPD is using **acoustic gunshot-monitoring equipment** to pinpoint a shot within seconds of its being fired. Police officers get alerts on their smartphones.

No. 44

Because the woman who has everything now has a man who will park her stroller.



"AT FULL CAPACITY, we probably have close to \$100,000 worth of strollers under our control," says stroller valet Bobby Young. "And we've never lost one."

Young, 41, lives in Ditmas Park, and he works as a proofreader and dog-walker. Lately, he's been picking up part-time stroller work at Brookfield Place. During big events, Young and his partner set up a tent and try to round up the strollers as people come in with their kids.

"I'm more of the guy who waves the flag on the street to try to get people to park, and my

partner is the one that actually parks the stroller," Young explains.

Young got the job through a friend at an event company who recognized the benefit of parking what he calls the "Sherman tanks" outside. The company pays them \$250 per five-hour shift, and while they don't put out a tip jar, Young finds a lot of people give him cash anyway.

"We don't have a great system," he says. "When they come to pick them up, we are like, 'Which one is yours?' And they're like, 'The big black one.'" **KATIE VAN SYCKLE**

PHOTOGRAPH: KATIE RICE

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Customers at H&M Fifth Avenue waiting for the pope to pass by outside on his first day visiting New York.



BECAUSE

THE POPE WENT TO H&M.

MEET THE MAN WHO

HAS A LOT ON HIS PLATE

Daniel Humm, chef/owner of Michelin three-star restaurant Eleven Madison Park and The NoMad in New York City, is an acclaimed author, the recipient of four stars from *The New York Times*, six James Beard Awards, including Outstanding Chef and Outstanding Restaurant in America, and holds a top spot on the S. Pellegrino list of the World's 50 Best Restaurants.

NYMAG.COM/MEETTHEMANWHO





BECAUSE

NORMCORE DINING IS A THING.

IS CHICKEN MARSALA on the menu? Will I be able to order creamy rigatoni with string beans and sun-dried tomatoes? Are the waiters in their 70s? Is there carpeting? Is the lighting unflattering? Would my grandmother like it? If so, count me in—and, yes, I'd like a basket of bread served with the type of butter that you have to unwrap. Ideally, I'm making my reservation for 1987. That's a joke, because who even knows whether any of my favorite restaurants in New York take reservations. You certainly don't need one to eat in them.

Normcore fashion, we all now know well, is a reaction to trendiness overload, a Champion sweatshirt in the face of a cut-out leather dress. And as the city I grew up in has become both too fancy and too self-consciously cool for my liking, I've found myself seeking out restaurants that remind me of the New York of my childhood—or, even better, have actually been around since my childhood—that serve yummy, if not spectacular, food in settings that are nice, if not too nice. It's just too exhausting to get all excited by a hyperfetishization and irritating self-consciousness and meticulousness surrounding everything from the morel mushrooms to the marble bar tops and menu fonts. There is something really great about going to a place that doesn't have 857 Yelp reviews, where you can actually get in as a party of five without a reservation on a Friday night, and where the food itself isn't going to be the main topic of conversation—and you can actually *have* a conversation. Whatever people say about how hard it is to keep a restaurant open in this city, New York has a lot of normcore options.

What is normcore dining? First things first: Normcore does not equal bad. In fact, most of these spots are really quite wonderful. If a restaurant has lasted since 1992 in Soho, it has to be slightly better than passable. (Even if it owns the build-

ing or has a great lease.) Also, restaurants like Donohue's, Gene's, Lucien, Indochine, or anything owned, or once owned, by Keith McNally are not normcore. Though they've been around for ages, they are too widely beloved, too trendy still—consider them the white leather Birkenstocks of New York restaurants. But restaurants that were once super-fashionable—even as recently as the early aughts—and have since faded slightly, like Kelley and Ping with its vast Greene Street space and '90s modelly looking waitresses? Or Noho Star with its snazzy marble décor and chicken with black-bean sauce? Or the over-the-top China Grill with its wasabi mashed potatoes? Or Café Loup with its jazz brunches? All of them are normcore. Also: Chicken is really normcore.

A great normcore restaurant is, as a colleague puts it, blotted out by the sun—in other words, it's a place you might walk by every day but forget exists and is actually still great. Downtown Manhattan is somehow full of these: the Cupping Room on West Broadway, Spring Street Natural on Lafayette, Tre Giovani on La Guardia, Knickerbocker on University, Bistro Les Amis on Spring. Instead of waiting three hours for a table at Buvette, get an odd-but-delicious open-faced shrimp-and-bacon sandwich with mayo and basil vinaigrette while sitting among a bunch of oddballs at Elephant & Castle.

As for the bounty of normcore restaurants in hip Brooklyn, you might say, "Huh? How is that possible?" But here lies a normcore subgenre: restaurants in Brooklyn neighborhoods first gentrified in the '70s and '80s that are still somehow alive and kicking: Santa Fe Grill and Rancho Alegre on Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, Henry's End and Teresa's in Brooklyn Heights, and Café Luluc in Boerum Hill. (Here, I'll take a moment to recognize one that left us too soon: Café on Clinton. Luckily, a great normcore pioneer, Friend of a Farmer on Irving Place, just opened an outpost on Montague Street.) Oh, and another normcore subgenre: pretty much any restaurant in the far East 60s.

So it's suddenly fashionable for chefs to reinterpret old New York restaurant tropes—Carbone has taken on the red-sauce joint, Mission Chinese has taken on the white-tablecloth Chinese restaurant—but why not just go to the originals? For red-sauce realness, try the capellini Bolognese at Queen in Brooklyn Heights or the penne vodka while staring at the Statue of Liberty at Gigino in Battery Park. For Chinese, get the beef lo mein at Chef Ho's on the Upper East Side, and a (rare, these days) free glass of wine with your sesame chicken at the Cottage on the Upper West Side. Shun Lee toes the line between normcore and not—but if you order the Grand Marnier prawns, it works.

But, just to be clear, Carbone and Mission Chinese are not normcore. So is it possible for a new restaurant to be normcore? Of course! There are tons of them in my South Brooklyn neighborhood, which I frequent often; from Watty & Meg, to Table 87, to Aperture. All great restaurants, all easy to get into on a Saturday night.

There are also restaurants that my family, a real proto-normcore bunch of Reebok-and-LeSportsac uptowners, have been going to for decades. I've seen Robert Caro dining next to me while I was nibbling on my canard Rôti at the bilevel, carpeted French bistro La Mirabelle on West 86th Street; the waiters all knew my grandmother's name—and her veal scallopini order—at nearby Scaletta; and the last time we went to La Ripaille on Hudson Street a few months ago, we were literally the only ones there. Which was fine by me.

ALEXIS SWERDLOFF

46

PHOTO: FRANCESCO TONELLI



Daniel Humm, the acclaimed chef behind Manhattan's Michelin three-star Eleven Madison Park as well as The NoMad draws inspiration from the farms, ingredients, and culinary history of New York in his cooking.

What do you love most about living in New York?

There is so much to love, but one of the things I love most is that every day brings something new. I've discovered beautiful new buildings walking between the

restaurants, food from across the globe in the most unexpected places, and met some of the most creative people. To be able to experience all of that, while still having a connection to incredible ingredients and a beautiful landscape, makes it easy to love living here.

What are the top 10 pantry essentials that every home cook should keep on hand?

Salt, white balsamic vinegar, quinoa, cayenne pepper, olive oil, mustard, pickles, good dark chocolate, maple syrup, homemade breadcrumbs.

Top 10 kitchen tools?

You can be successful in the kitchen without having a kitchen full of tools and professional appliances. The essentials include a reliable chef's knife and paring knife, hardwood cutting board, a saucepan and sauté pan. Once you have those items you can begin to cook and then acquire other tools as you become more comfortable. I'd also recommend an instant-read thermometer for checking the doneness of meat and fish – it's an inexpensive and invaluable tool.

Overrated ingredient?

I'm finding myself using meat more as a component than as the focal point of the dish. It's more enjoyable and a healthier way to eat.

Go-to ingredient?

Acid – whether it's lime juice or a vinaigrette – simply makes food taste better.

Best advice you ever received?

When I was young my father told me that it didn't matter what path I chose – whether it was a complicated profession or a simple one – but whatever I did choose to pursue I should want to be the best.

PHOTO: MELANIE DUNEAU/CPI



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THAT UBER MIGHT BRING YOU COCAINE. OR THIS ONE.

A MAN IN WILLIAMSBURG was throwing a party, and he said he would buy the cocaine himself. His co-host was running late and did not have time to buy it, so she sent him a phone number and told him the drug runner would be driving an Uber car. Yes, an Uber car. With the Uber sticker and everything. Technically, it's not an Uber when the drug runner is driving it—he shares the car with a professional driver who delivers passengers to destinations during the day. But after sunset, a second shift begins. When "Uber Cocaine" arrived, he went downstairs, hopped into the car, and made the purchase. Then his phone rang—"Uber Cocaine" calling again. "Hey, I'm still here, waiting for you." He had gotten into the wrong car, which means he bought the cocaine, accidentally, from someone else. By getting into a random Town Car idling on a condo-lined street in Williamsburg, he had asked a complete stranger in a random car to sell him cocaine—and it worked. What a lark! He looked up and realized there were four cars idling on his block, all with a customer hunched in the back. When Uber first arrived in New York, it unleashed a plague of people hopping into strangers' idling cars. But when the drug-buy version happened, everyone at the party rejoiced. To avoid upsetting his friend's dealer, the host purchased an order from that guy too. In a state of coked-up elation, one woman exclaimed, "This is the new vice!" Thinking she was referring to Vice Media, someone pointed down the street and said, "The new offices are so nice."

No.

47

BECAUSE

WHO NEEDS TEETH?

I GO TO A VERY upscale dentist. I definitely can't use that adjective for any of my other consumption patterns, and so—thanks, Cigna—I tend to brag about this more than I should. The office has a zillion-dollar view of Central Park, and I think it's only when I rounded the corner toward 30 that my dentist realized the job in journalism I kept mentioning was actually what paid my bills, not a hobby I pursued in the rare off-hours from my gig in finance. I mention all this only for context: When my dentist told me 80 percent of his clients grind their teeth at night, compared with about 10 percent nationally, I assumed it was a finance thing. Buy, sell, grind. First prize is a Cadillac Eldorado, second prize is a set of steak knives, third prize is all your teeth break and you can never eat steak again or enunciate the word *Cadillac*.

It turns out that grinding

your teeth might just be a New York thing. Another uptown dentist, Central Park West Dental, estimated that 75 to 80 percent of its clients are grinders. ("That's New York for you!" said the receptionist.) Rates of bruxism were lower elsewhere—50 percent at Morningside Dental Care, 40 percent at Tribeca Smile, 45 percent in Park Slope—but still well above the national average of one in ten patients. The phrase *gnashing of the teeth* appears no fewer than seven times in the Bible, to describe the human reaction to the misery of hell. We react that way to a bad Tuesday.

My own diagnosis as a grinder—the dentist recommended a mouth guard to be worn at night—did set off some soul-searching. When I moved here, it was as if I'd sloughed off all the neurosis and type-A self-flagellation I'd spent years understanding as key to my

identity: Suddenly, I was the sunny, placid Midwesterner who would happily split that beer cheese with you. Sure, I lived in New York, but maybe at heart I was a Chicagoan, or an Austinite, or still a Clevelander, with an adaptable, low-key optimism. And now it turned out I'd been lying to myself. I'm the kind of person who thrives on stress and who gets off on having the best possible dentist. My teeth knew the truth.

A year and a half ago, my younger sister moved to New York. At first, she kept New York at arm's length, appraisingly. But some time around her anniversary here, in her worn apartment with a shiny cross-river view, she told me she never wanted to leave her place, ever. A few months afterward, her dentist recommended a mouth guard. She ordered one. I think she'll stay.

NOREEN MALONE

Scott Mendelson

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NEAR YOU**

No. **49**

BECAUSE

WE DON'T CARE ABOUT FIRST IMPRESSIONS.

Yelp reviews of New York's travel hubs.

LA GUARDIA AIRPORT ♦ “Terminal B is probably the most depressing place ever.” *Kenny C., Brooklyn* ♦ “If there was one word I could use to sum it up it would probably be ... scuzzy. Yup, scuzzy fits the bill ... I feel like I need to take a long hot shower after coming out of this airport.” *Faiza K., North York, Ontario* ♦ “La Guardia is the definition of hell.” *Stephanie Q., New York, New York* ♦ “The baggage-claim area stunk to high heaven.” *Jaimee A., Manhattan* ♦ “The fact is I’ve been to Third World airports and they are far better than LGA.” *David N., Brooklyn*

PORT AUTHORITY ♦ “Typically, I like to break my reviews into categories, offer a brief summary followed by a detailed review and share overall conclusions. No need for any of that here—I can summarize my advice on passing through Port Authority in a single word: DON’T.” *Adam H., Toronto* ♦ “Observe all the buckets catching water drips during the next rainstorm—just classic!” *Paul M., Wayne, New Jersey* ♦ “Images of expressionless hurdles of humans in a rush trampling over everybody and anybody with an ever-haunting smell of piss. Every now and then, you can catch the terror in someone’s face who didn’t know not to come here.” *Daya A., Queens* ♦ “A great and terrible evil resides in this place. Something dark, foul, something that shakes one’s fortitude to its core.” *Sean E., Centerport, New York*

PENN STATION ♦ “Dim, confusing, low, catacombs, and a horrible nervous lethargy of both passengers and travelers alike. Me not like. At all.” *John B., Manhattan* ♦ “Intelligent life elsewhere in the galaxy will never make contact with Earth for as long as this place exists. It’s just too much of a risk that their advanced species would somehow be destroyed if it came into contact with such blight and awfulness.” *Christopher K., East Brunswick, New Jersey* ♦ “It smelled bad and I guess that’s normal for New York. I still don’t like that.” *Shareen K., Salt Lake City*

No. **50**

AND BECAUSE

LA GUARDIA IS FINALLY GETTING AN UPDATE; NEXT ON THE LIST: PORT AUTHORITY.





No. 51 AND BECAUSE CROWDS AREN'T TO FEAR. THEY'RE

◀ THE FIRST DREAM I remember having, I was standing with my mother in a crowd in Manhattan, jostled by strangers, watching balloons float into the sky; the second was of studying people on a crowded subway platform on what was then the RR line.

What would New York be without its crowds? I've lived in this city my whole life, and to me New York is walking in crowds, negotiating the bags, elbows, feet, and clusters of others, anonymous but seen, present yet alone, amiably connected to the life of the city and as free of connection as you choose. When I walk the streets, especially at this time of year, I feel I am among people the way the city windows are among skyscrapers, scores of them lit up as Hart Crane's "fiery parcels." The skyline is a crowd; the traffic is a crowd; we're a crowd. On evenings when the first chill has come, and you're heading to the theater or a restaurant to meet friends, it's impossible not to feel thrilled by the energy of others, the sense, as Joan Didion once put it, the city gave you (especially when you're young) that "nothing was irrevocable." The crowd is a space of possibility.

What kind? I live also, these days, in Paris. I stay not far from one of the restaurants that was attacked; I go to the bakery beside it—a gluten-free one, if you can believe it—all the time. The neighborhoods that were targeted in Paris were the fabric of the youthful city itself, where crowds of 20-somethings congregate casually. The American media was quick to analogize—it was as though the East Village had been attacked, they said, or the Lower East Side. The comparison was, of course, natural, since the mode of fashionable cheek-to-jowl living exported over the last decades to every metropolis in the wealthy world was, actually, invented in New York.

JUST A THING HOME.



Those neighborhoods were built by crowds, too—the so-called unwashed masses, millions of them, arriving on boats packed enough crossing the North Atlantic and literally teeming on the deck by the time they arrived in New York Harbor. They piled into tenements, in the burgeoning cluster of them stretching from the Brooklyn Bridge to 14th Street (nearly a single neighborhood then, before it was divided up into boutique fiefdoms by real-estate agents). They dreamed of getting out, toward more light and space—the Grand Concourse, Brooklyn, Kew Gardens. And they did. But, a generation later, their children all wanted back in. Their grandchildren, even more so. When, last spring, the gas line in a rickety five-story East Village walk-up detonated the building, it exposed a whole surviving skeleton of tenement living, post-white flight, post-punk, post-Giuliani, and post-Bloomberg. The floors had been redone; the light fixtures, some of them. But the floor plans largely remained: What was exposed were tiny cages for living, stacked one on top of the other. Who could live like that? Who would want to?

We do. The other day, my Pilates teacher, a new mother, was worrying out loud to me about the vertiginous chaos of the city. The very next day in midtown, a man threw a Coke all over me and another woman passing him. After Paris, you hear people talking of “soft targets.” We used to say, “You don’t see what’s coming.” A friend no longer takes the 2/3 home because she thinks it’s too crowded; the R is less likely to be a target. I find myself moving superstitiously among subway cars, avoiding Rockefeller Center. A New Yorker knows how to register when something just “feels wrong.”

But that feeling of wrong is, also, so peculiarly close to comfort. Because the crowds represent something valuable to us, too. And in response to the threat, a perverse New York spirit replies: the dynamism, electricity, and diversity, the feeling you have, rushing onward, that you belong, along with everyone else who made their way here and has become adept at negotiating the slipstream. Personally, I like to walk the winding and still-disorienting streets of the West Village in spring, or midtown in winter, to see the crisp neon theater lights at twilight, darting among Frank O’Hara’s “hum-colored cabs.” Vigilance has its limits.

MEGHAN O’ROURKE

THE CUT

The First Black Trans Model Had Her Face on a Box of Clairol

No one knew her secret.
Until they did.

BY JADA YUAN
and AARON WONG

Photographs by
PETER HAPAK

Styling by
DIANA TSUI



Tracey's model card from the Grace Del Marco agency, 1991, before she changed the spelling of her name.

TRACEY “AFRICA” NORMAN always knew that the question wasn’t whether she’d be found out, but how long she could go undetected. ¶ To be black and from Newark in the late 1970s and get plucked from a model-casting call for Italian *Vogue* by Irving Penn—it was the kind of success story that was unheard of, especially for someone like her. She was signed by a top agency, photographed multiple times for the pages of *Essence* magazine. She landed an exclusive contract for Avon skin care, and another for Clairol’s Born Beautiful hair-color boxes: No. 512, Dark Auburn, please. She went to Paris and became a house model in the Balenciaga showroom, wearing couture and walking the runway twice a day. Norman was never as big as Iman, Beverly Johnson, Pat Cleveland, or the other models who broke the color barrier on international runways or on the covers of *Vogue*. But she was riding that wave. It was more than she could have ever hoped for when

PHOTOGRAPH: COURTESY OF TRACEY NORMAN (MODEL CARD)



TRACEY AFRICA
NORMAN TODAY:
*Stella McCartney crêpe
washed-satin dress,
\$5,290 at 112 Greene St.;
212-255-1556.*

she was a kid growing up in New Jersey. Back when she was a boy who knew that, inside, he was a girl.

Today, trans models like Lea T. and Andreja Pejic are the faces of Redken and Make Up Forever, and Caitlyn Jenner has been celebrated on the cover of *Vanity Fair*. Trans acceptance makes it easy to lose sight of how dangerous it was 40 years ago—and still can be now—for women like Norman just to walk down the street. Fear of harassment from both civilians and police was constant. To live one's life openly as a trans person, let alone as a black trans woman, simply wasn't done. The only option, really, was to "pass" in straight society.

But Norman wanted to do more than pass—she wanted to excel in the most scrutinized realm of femininity. One morning in the late '70s, not long into her transition, she followed a group of black women into a casting at the Pierre hotel. She had no idea she was interviewing with photographer Irving Penn and Basile designer Luciano Soprani. They called and offered her \$1,500 a day, for two days' work—more money than she'd ever seen. Peggy Dillard, a well-known model who was also on that shoot, said she "had an instinct" about Norman's secret. Dillard had spent much of her youth DJ-ing at her brother's gay disco in New York and had friends who'd transitioned, "so I noticed with Tracey's hands and ankles some things that were characteristic to men. It didn't bother me. I thought she was beautiful."

Dillard kept her observation to herself. "It was really hilarious to watch Irving Penn calling people like crazy, which you never saw him do. He was on the phone the whole shoot, telling people, 'I've discovered the next Beverly Johnson!' I just kind of watched and thought, *He doesn't know that this is a boy!*"

A top agency, Zoli, signed Norman days later on Penn's recommendation, and soon she was off to Miami on catalogue shoots—her first time on a plane. Then came her big Clairol moment. The company was looking for fresh faces to adorn the boxes of its new hair-dye line for women of color, Born Beautiful. Under the bright lights, Norman's hair had reddish undertones. They snapped photos and labeled her hue Dark Auburn, Box 512, and then concocted a hair color to match what Norman had come by naturally. "They used my box for about five years, because they said it was the hottest-selling box," says Norman. "This is what I was told." Thousands of Clairol customers were unwittingly

emulating the look, and affirming the beauty, of a trans woman.

Norman knew that the discovery of her secret could end her career. Every day that she left home to go on a go-see, she would say a prayer: "Please, Lord, don't let anybody disrespect me, call me a name, or try to embarrass me. And please don't let this be *the day*."

But that day finally came. It was her fifth or sixth shoot for *Essence*, a holiday issue. Hairdresser Andre Douglas braided her hair and beaded it in gold; they wrapped her in Egyptian cloth. The photographer told her to imagine she was Cleopatra floating down the Nile. "He was clicking, clicking, clicking, clicking." The magazine's then-editor-in-chief, Susan Taylor, had come in and seemed very excited. "She even mentioned, 'The pictures are so beautiful, Tracey, this could be a cover,'" says Norman. They were on the third roll of film when Norman noticed one of Douglas's assistants, a gay man from New Jersey who'd previously asked Norman questions that made her think he was onto her, speaking to Taylor. "For some reason it felt negative," says Norman. "The whole situation felt negative to me."

Norman believes the hairdresser's assistant told her secret that day. According to Norman, the editor then ended the shoot, saying, "I think we have enough." (Taylor did not respond to requests for comment, and the hairdresser who spoke to her is deceased.) Taylor "was asking me was I all right; she was standing behind me, looking at me in the mirror, rubbing my shoulder, complimenting me on how soft I was," says Norman. "That's when I knew. She was looking for the person that this hairdresser told them that I was."

Taylor didn't say anything explicit to Norman then—or ever. And it's possible that Norman misinterpreted their interaction. But she doesn't think so. The next day, when she called her agency to find out if she had any bookings or go-sees, they said no. "All I know is that my work stopped that day."

Eventually a friend in the industry confirmed that her secret was out. "It goes through the grapevine really fast. Really, really fast. I kind of upset the fashion world for a while," Norman says.

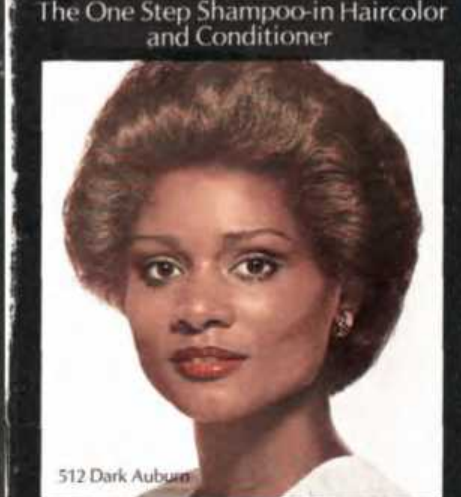
Norman fled to Paris. She didn't do the Fashion Week go-sees where she would have run into models from New York who knew her. Instead, she got work as an in-house model for Balenciaga. "When I worked for Balenciaga, that's when all of my insecurities and inhibitions stopped," she

says. She was amazed at what she saw in the mirror. "The person I was looking at was so beautiful: made up, hair done, in a beautiful billion-dollar gown. I just felt so fabulous. And my confidence just grew from that moment on."

After a whirlwind couple of years, she came back to the States, hoping that memories were short and that she could start again. She couldn't. She managed to get one more beauty contract—for Ultra Sheen cosmetics—but once the ads were out, the gossip began to spread again. "Anywhere I went, they would say, 'Oh, oh, you're *the Tracey*.'"

Norman finally found a place where she didn't have to hide or worry about her secret being discovered: the drag-ball community. She had briefly been a part of that scene back in the '70s, so when she heard about a drag ball offering a grand prize of \$1,000, she called up a designer she knew and borrowed a dress. Eventually, she became a member, and then the "mother," of the House of Africa, one of the drag-ball teams, and became known as Tracey Africa. She prided herself on using her modeling skills to teach her "children" to walk like professionals, rather than in the flamboyant style that was in vogue before she joined. Her own personal trademark move was to walk out in just jeans and a T-shirt. When she reached the judges, she would pull out a white handkerchief from her back pocket. "And then she'd wipe it across her face and show the handkerchief to the judges [to show that she had no makeup on], and the place would go crazy," says her friend and fellow model Tommy Garrett.

Despite the pioneering nature of her career, Norman's story is barely known, even in the trans community. Laverne Cox, a trans woman who stars on *Orange Is the New Black*, discovered it only about five years ago while reading a blog dedicated to the unsung heroes of trans history. "I was just enthralled that there was this black model in the '70s who got a hair contract, who had cosmetic deals," says Cox. "That's a really big deal, for any black model to have contracts, and then for her to be trans is just beyond amazing." Cox was well into her transition at that point, but she found Norman deeply inspiring—proof of a lineage of black trans women succeeding in fields where looks mean a lot. "I can't tell you how many hours I stared at that photo of her on that Clairol bottle and that caption, 'Born Beautiful,'" she says. "Yeah, we are born beautiful." ■



GAYLE NORMAN
 Co., Inc. 1697 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10019 (212) 586-7263



10 M: 34-26-35 SHOE: 10C

HAIR: DK. BROWN
 EYES: DK. BROWN

**CLAIROL
 BORN
 BEAUTIFUL**



THIS PAGE, clockwise from top left: At a friend's birthday party, 1994; the face of Clairol, 1975; in 1994; at a friend's house in 1995; modeling for Black Elegance magazine, 1980; in Miami Beach; beauty shot for her portfolio, 1993; model card, 1991.



A woman of Caribbean heritage, Gayle Norman was born in New York City. She is a model and actress who has appeared in numerous television shows and movies. She is also a singer and has released several albums. She is currently living in Miami Beach, Florida.

The hair of Gayle Norman is a dark brown color. It is styled in a short, wavy bob. She is wearing a white top with a black bow. She is also wearing a colorful patterned top.

The hair of Gayle Norman is a dark brown color. It is styled in a short, wavy bob. She is wearing a white top with a black bow. She is also wearing a colorful patterned top.



*Missoni knit dress, \$2,530
at 1009 Madison Ave.;
212-517-9339. David Yurman
necklace in 18-karat rose gold,
\$10,500 at 712 Madison Ave.;
212-752-4255.*



Altuzarra triacetate dress,
\$1,995 at mytheresa.com.
Jennifer Fisher brass triple-ball
cuff, \$660 at jenniferfisherjewelry.com.

Xtra



Xtra Sofa Bed Before \$372 After \$299, Xtra cover available in different fabrics. **10% Discount**

Kyoto



Kyoto Sofa Bed Before \$1,239 After \$699, while supplies last.

Madison



Madison Sofa Bed, with sleeper function and manual headrest, available in fabrics and leathers. **10% Discount**

Melo



Melo Single Seater, with reclining and sleeping function. **10% Discount**

Melo 2



Melo 2 Sofa Bed \$1,899 with reclining and sleeping function. **10% Discount**

Stockholm



Stockholm Sofa Bed available in fabrics and leathers. **10% Discount**

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..... COOL COOKBOOKS

THE BEST BET

THE GOAL

Navigate the
wide world
of sparkling
beverages to

find something affordable to
bring to a holiday party.
Our food editors directed us
to some domestic producers
whose nontraditional
approaches to fermentation
made for novel bubbles and
even better conversation
pieces. Then we sampled the
goods. **THE VARIETY:** The
Scholar Project's Blowout
(\$25 at Astor Wines &
Spirits, 389 Lafayette St.)
is the result of radical
winemaker Abe Scholier's
adventures in carbonation.
Scholier, known for his
modern interpretation of wines,
plays against type here,
applying highly industrial
methods (early filtering,
beer-tank carbonation)
to Verdelho and Grüner
Veltliner grapes from
California's Lost Slough
Vineyards. The restrained
bubbles are more frizzante
than forceful, and the high-
acid wine is reminiscent
of a fizzy Sauvignon Blanc.

Photograph by Bobby Lieberth

BEST BETS

MICROMARKET

➔ *New York tribes reveal what's at the top of their list.*



CHORUS KIDS

"Dress pants that actually fit me, because they make me feel professional onstage." (\$88 at Brooks Brothers, 901 E. 20th St.)
—LEO HARTLEY, 10, BROOKLYN YOUTH CHORUS



SOUND BATHERS

"We're all into kyanite, which is this really pretty blue crystal that opens channels of spirituality and has balancing properties." (From \$14 at Maha Rose, 97 Green St., Greenpoint.) —ERICA DUNN, SOUND-BATHING REGULAR



GARDENING-CLUB LADIES

"During the dead of winter, I'd most like an exquisite dahlia arrangement in an antique container from Vladimir Kanevsky." (\$8,000 at thevladimircollection.com.)
—NANCY SIPP, GARDEN CLUB OF LAWRENCE



GOLF-CLUB GUYS

"Everyone wants the M1 from Taylor Made. It's got new technology—basically, it moves weight around in the head, to change the spin rate and optimize the launch angle." (\$500 at tayloradegolf.com.)
—BRAD WORTHINGTON, DIRECTOR AT TRUMP GOLF LINKS

SIDE BY SIDE

Two new stores for giftable socks and watches.



STANCE
510 Broadway

Some 500 socks, from pineapple prints to cushioning and sweat-wicking styles (\$18).



NIXON
122 Prince St.

72 watch styles including the Ultratide surfing smartwatch that detects tide and water temperature (\$300).

Buy

Personalize

Choose from 12 patterns and 20 colors, plus monograms, done in 20 minutes in a downstairs room visible through the glass floor (\$28).

Choose from 16 faces, 20 leather and steel bands, and laser engraving, made right behind the counter within 45 minutes (from \$125).

Name-drop

Numerous styles co-designed by celebrities include one featuring basketball player James Harden's face.

Keith Richards donated a leather jacket to be reappropriated as watchbands.

CHEAP STORE, NICE GIFT

➔ *The most-expensive-looking selections from the city's more reasonably priced shops.*



Flying Tiger:
Polka-dot quilt (\$15; 920 Broadway).



Lot-Less: Men's plaid pajamas (\$20; 97 Chambers St.).



Kikkerland:
Brown-cow bath mat (\$15; 493 Sixth Ave.).



& Other Stories:
Cutout two-tone leather gloves (\$65; 505 Fifth Ave.).



Muji:
Wool shawl with armholes (\$70; 475 Fifth Ave.).



Sunrise Mart:
Japanese soap made of moisturizing milk fat (\$3; 494 Broome St.).

LAST-MINUTE GIFTS

➔ *Twenty-four-hour stores and craft-beer delivery for when it's 7 p.m. and the Secret Santa swap is tomorrow morning.*



From \$10
A farm-fresh basket filled with berries, grapes, and melon from Sunset Park's Rossman Farms, open 24/7 (770 Third Ave.).



\$55
A bouquet of silver brunia, succulents, or mums wrapped in chartreuse burlap, delivered in an hour via bike messenger (urbanstems.com).



From \$260
A selection of domestic craft beers like Smuttynose Robust Porter; bottles can also arrive staggered throughout the year (drizly.com).



\$520
A pair of Sideshow Collectible Hot Toys of Chewbacca and Han Solo from Neergaard Pharmacies, open 24/7 (454 Fifth Ave.).



\$1,800
A Weber stainless-steel natural-gas grill from Nuthouse Hardware, open 24/7 (202 E. 29th St.).

2X2

➔ Festive Booze Buckets

For the host who wants to look serious.

FOR ICE

SILVER



Carmen pineapple
ice bucket, \$70 at CB2 (451 Broadway).

BRONZE



Tom Dixon plum
ice bucket, \$290 at shophorne.com.

FOR CHAMPAGNE



Margiela Champagne
bucket, \$425 at mrporter.com.



Bottega del Rame
grape-shaped bucket, \$192 at amazon.com.

ASK A SHOP CLERK

Nate Borne is the U.S. manager of Snow Peak, a Japanese outdoors brand that just opened in Soho (59 Crosby St.).



How is camping different in Japan?

"In America, people usually camp because they're doing another outdoor activity like canoeing, so we'll spend \$1,000 on the canoe, but the tent is \$150 from Walmart. In Japan, camping is the activity. They don't actually do anything but cook and hang out, so they'll spend all their money on gear—like our titanium sake bottle (\$180) and cups (\$35)—which has to look elegant while also being smart

enough to pack small and fit in Tokyo's limited spaces and small cars. We have a bamboo table (from \$330) that folds in half and will slide underneath your futon in a single action, which actually does really well in New York apartments too."



ANTHONY LUPI,
UPS Driver

Work must be nuts.

I'm dealing with a tremendous amount of packages right now. It's unbelievable. I don't know where people get the time or money to order so much stuff! But the job's great; I have my regular routes here in downtown Manhattan, and I'm super-personable with my customers: "Oh, hey, how are you?" One of them just walked by.

Do you get hit on a lot?

I can't lie to you: Yes. A lot. There are definitely some ladies on my route who always try to chat a little bit longer. It's flattering for sure, but I always gotta keep it moving.

How do you like the

uniform? It's not terrible, right? I worked in fashion before this—for a suiting company—and learned how to cut, tailor, sew, the whole nine yards.

I hemmed these pants and would love to slim down the shirt a bit, get it darted, but I'd need permission to do that.

What are some of the craziest things you've delivered?

The other day, I brought a fairly big box to a woman—and inside was one of those little tiny staple removers. Those little things that you squeeze! People have gotten really lazy. But you know what? At the end of the day, it's my job to treat every package like it's somebody's rent check.

INTERVIEW BY
ALEXIS SWERDLOFF



LIGHTNING ROUND

Neighborhood:

Huntington, Long Island. "I live with my girlfriend."

Favorite restaurant:

Balthazar. "For the ham-and-cheese croissants."

Favorite TV show:

Orange Is the New Black. **Christmas plans:**

"We all go to my grandmother's house. My mom is one of nine siblings, so it's huge."

Favorite street

in New York: Crosby. "Broadway is the epicenter of capitalism, and I like that Crosby is like the behind-the-scenes street."

Getting There First

Five early adopters of newfangled everything are eating cricket powder and not-driving Teslas like it's already tomorrow. BY SETH PORGES

ONCE UPON A TIME, becoming an early adopter meant spending big bucks on arcane gadgets (being the first on your block with a Palm Pilot or HDTV) and ever-more-powerful Pentium processors. But in an era where it's virtually impossible to discover a new app before it's already been upvoted on Product Hunt or zap your brain in a manner that hasn't already been demonstrated on YouTube, the only way to forge new ground is to be, well, totally obsessive. Today's early adopters are as much makers as buyers: growing their own food using high-tech sensors, mapping out a complex network of virtual assistants, self-experimenting their way to an ideal ratio of various brain-boosting pills. Here, meet a group of such folks at the forefront of making life easier—which, frankly, seems like very hard work.



The Man With the Foldable Plane

Robert Schuham,
51, Boulder, Colorado,
angel investor.

✦✦ **"I have a deposit on a \$189,000 light-sport Icon A5 airplane.**

It has foldable wings, so it can fit on a trailer, and it can land just about anywhere, including on water—though getting permits for the lagoon in Denver City Park may be a challenge. For me, it's all about the experience of flight in a lightweight, fuel-efficient airplane that has incredibly simple avionics and unprecedented safety features like an anti-spin design and a parachute if you get into some serious-ass trouble.

✦✦ My Tesla Model S P85D is like an eco-hot rod. And with its new Autopilot feature, I can now pretty much have the car drive itself from Boulder almost all the way to Denver on the turnpike. It's a bizarre experience to have the wheel turning and adjusting the vehicle's course on its own, and when combined with the cruise-control feature

that speeds up and slows down based on traffic in front of you, it feels like there's a ghost in the machine. The first time I used it, my car surprised me and took an exit I didn't want it to, but we're both still learning about each other's preferences.

✦✦ In my Tesla, I'm usually listening to Slacker internet radio, which I'm addicted to because it does the best job of automatically guessing what I'll like, but it has a human element in the curation that keeps it from sounding like I'm listening to bot-programming. I have an Escort Passport 9500ci custom-installed radar-detection system because I, like everybody else, hate tickets. This is installed into the front of the car inside the air intakes and in the back of the car, straddling the license plates, and makes sure I'm warned anytime police radar or laser systems have a lock on me. I also use the Escort Live app occasionally for crowdsourced details on speed traps. It all sounds like distracted driving, but I have my car set up so everything is eye level and doesn't require me to look away from the road."

The Family That Lives in a Robot

Andrew Schmitt, 38, Traverse City, Michigan, director of technology at the Interlochen Center for the Arts.



"With a second kid on the way three years ago, we needed a bigger house. We decided to build it ourselves with all the latest technology, and what we ended up with is akin to the skyscraper in *Gremlins II*: the smartest, most sensor-packed, most automated home we could possibly imagine."

1 "As the sun rises, our Philips Hue lights automatically turn on to let us know the day has begun. My daughter knows that she is only allowed out of bed when her Hue Go light turns bright green at 7 a.m."

2 "I use the LiftMaster MyQ Gateway to open the garage door from my phone. Our doors are outfitted with Schlage Sense door locks. This lets me open them from an app, and if any doors are open more than 60 minutes in the summer or 15 in the winter, we get a phone alert."

3 "We have nine security cameras throughout the house. They're made by a company called Hikvision, and they record on motion. During the day, my wife can let the kids play outside for a few minutes while she folds laundry and watches them on the cameras."

4 "The temperature in the house is controlled by an Ecobee thermostat. It's not as well known as the Nest, but it uses additional sensors to monitor the temperature. So if there's no motion detected in the basement, it won't waste energy trying to heat that area."

5 "When the house hits 68 degrees, an Insteon Wall Switch automatically turns the fireplace on. We also use Netatmo weather sensors to gauge temperature, sound, and air quality. If the air quality dips or there are noises in the house when we're not there, we get an alert."

6 "At night, our porch lights automatically turn on. If the cameras pick up any movements after dark, they snap a picture and send it to our iPhones and Apple Watches. If we hear a strange noise, we can remotely turn on a bunch of outdoor and indoor lights all at once."

7 "We also use the cameras to make sure our kids are actually sleeping. Our daughter tends to kick her covers off, so we can use them to check in on her to see if we need to sneak up the stairs and cover her up. If the kids need to use the bathroom during the night, they can double-tap a switch that activates a dimly lit path to the bathroom."

8 "Most of the systems are controlled by their own hubs and apps, but Apple's HomeKit allows these devices to all talk to each other."

PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY OF ANDREW SCHMITT (HOUSE); PHOTO-ILLUSTRATION: GUEKIT (HOUSE); COURTESY OF THE VENDORS (REMAINING)

The Guy With Four Virtual Assistants

Nick Gray, 34, New York, founder of Museum Hack.

► "A virtual assistant is an affordable helper who works remotely and gives you superhuman powers. I have four of them. Before I open my email in the morning, my most senior VA, Nadia, will have scanned my messages and taken care of simple tasks like scheduling appointments. I found her on Zirtual, but liked her so much I hired her to work

"Here's my rule: If I'm doing something more than three times, then I set up a plan to outsource it."

directly for me. She's based in Florida. Then there's Esther, who I found on Upwork; Angel, who is in North Carolina; and Honesto, over in the Philippines.

► "One of my favorite things to do is to call one of my VAs—usually Nadia or Angel—and walk around my neighborhood while they read my emails

to me over the phone and then transcribe and send my replies. Having someone on the phone holds me accountable when I have important messages that I keep putting off—unpleasant things like paying bills or saying 'No' to people.



Usually, this works fine, but one time one of my VAs replied to somebody and forwarded them the entire email thread, including some things that person shouldn't have seen. I was mortified.

► "I've had my VAs plan an epic bachelor party: Not only did they help me home in on the best option—a trip to a deserted island in Maine—but they coordinated everything with the group of ten-plus

guys, hired drivers, and even checked on the legal status of carrying firearms aboard a private aircraft for skeet shooting. I use them for everything: like ordering flowers for my mom, calling tech support for buggy gadgets, making donations to charities, and contacting congressmen about things that concern me.

► "I'm a power user and spend about \$5,000 a month on my VAs, though you can start for as little as \$100 per month if you just use someone part time or a service like Hello Alfred, which is a butler

The Woman With Ten Drones

Desiree Ekstein, 52,
Lake Elsinore, California,
UAV pilot and instructor.

"My mom started calling me 'Drone Diva Desi,' and it just sort of stuck."

➤ "I love being able to see things in a different perspective. I just upgraded to the **DJI Phantom 3 Pro**. It's really got the high-end photography stuff down. The next step up from there is the updated version of the **DJI Inspire 1 Pro**. They just announced it a few weeks ago, so I don't have it yet, but its camera looks like a DSLR is hanging from the bird."

➤ I have a bunch of really small drones without cameras so I can toy with them and practice my flying around the kitchen. My **Cheerson CX-10 Nano Drone** is just two inches across, so it fits in my hand. I also have the **Proto-X**, which is the height of a quarter."

➤ The drone everyone's talking about is the upcoming **Lily Camera**, which will cost about \$1,000. You throw it in the air and it follows you and films without you having to control it at all. It's like a selfie stick without the stick!"

service that sends a real person to my house once a week to do my grocery shopping and simple errands like watering my plants or selling my Google Glass on eBay. For one-off tasks like data transcription, I use Fancy Hands, a network of on-demand VAs who will do almost anything for around \$6 per 20 minutes of work.

➤ To live like this, you have to be good at delegating. You have to be specific with what you want. I spell out every single possible detail for every task. If you aren't specific, your flower order could come up as \$350 with the bill sent to your mom. Believe me, you don't want that."

The Super-Duper Foodie

Anthony Krumeich, 29,
San Francisco, entrepreneur.



"I may or may not have started growing my own food to impress a girl."

“For breakfast, I'll have oatmeal, a green smoothie, and coffee. The smoothie is made from vegetables that I grow on my patio. I have three varieties of kale, four varieties of sweet peppers, four types of mint, and anything else you could imagine: from strawberry spinach to a toothache plant that numbs your mouth."

¶ I use garden sensors to track my plants' basics and to better understand how to match soil conditions to the right heirloom plant varieties. I started with the **Parrot Flower Power** sensor, which sits in the soil and assesses plants' needs and then sends alerts to an app if it needs more water or anything else. This works for small planters, but for larger yards, the **Edyn** sensor is a better fit. Using these sensors, I was able to tell that one variety of lettuce would bolt—that is, stop growing and go to seed—in one part of my patio because it gets too hot there. ¶ I use the **Loom** ecosystem—which I helped create and basically boils everything you need to grow a garden into a small kit. It comes with plants, self-watering planters, and a sensor that lets me know if I need to fill a water tank or move a plant to a sunnier spot or into the shade. If you've got a ton of indoor space, there's the **Grove ecosystem**—but it's as much a piece of furniture as a planter: It's huge and costs thousands. ¶ I supplement just about everything I eat with plant extracts such as moringa powder—

it's this superfood that comes from the leaves of the moringa tree and gram for gram has twice the potassium of bananas, four times the calcium of milk, twice the protein of yogurt, and tons of antioxidants—and maca powder, which is a root vegetable that only grows at the top of the Peruvian Andes and gives me energy and boosts my libido. I also use cricket powder from a brand called **Cricket Flour**. It tastes like almond meal, is a great source of added protein for things like shakes, and I believe it's better for me than many of the highly processed protein powders that are out there. ¶ After breakfast, I take a few nootropic—brain-enhancing—pills to help my focus and ability to recall information: four **truBrain** pills—which I like because they don't make me feel shaky—and one **Nootrobox Rise** for its memory-boosting ingredients. I can't separate their use from all the self-improvement work I've been doing, but I know that in combination, they've helped me function at a higher level. ¶ For lunch, I'll either make a protein smoothie or mix up some **Soylent** powder with water. It has a pretty flat flavor, so I'll add some peanut butter to make it a bit more palatable. ¶ I let myself cheat every once in a while. I really like going to pop-up dinners with **Feastly**, an Airbnb-type service for chefs. I prefer it to restaurants because I get to meet new people and am exposed to dishes I might not try otherwise—like the time I had a meal where figs were used in every course, or my favorite, which was freshly foraged BBQ monkeyface eel."





Bunk

THE UNDERGROUND GOURMET

Between the Bread in Brooklyn

Bunk and Southside Coffee enter New York's sandwich pantheon.

BY ROBIN RAISFELD AND ROB PATRONITE

THE BATHROOM-WALL photo of a wolfish '50s-era Elvis gobbling a sandwich tells you everything you need to know about Bunk. Bunk is all about indulging appetites. And Bunk is all about the glory that is the sandwich. Two ideas, incidentally, that pretty much sum up the philosophy of the Underground Gourmet. The counter-service sandwich shop, which opened recently in Williamsburg, is a branch of a popular Portland, Oregon, mini-chain run by a crew of musician-cooks including co-founder Tommy Habetz, who once worked for Mario Batali as a Lupa sous-chef.

For his first Bunk foray outside Portland, Habetz hired Jake Adams, a former Milk Bar chef de cuisine, to oversee the kitchen. The sandwich-making *modus operandi* here is to start with the classics, then, by judicious tweaking, scratch cooking, meticulous construction, and the use of outstanding bread and top-notch ingredients, improve upon them. This formula works like a charm. Take, for instance, the Cubano, which crams pork belly, pork butt, good New Hampshire ham, Swiss cheese, and pickles into a

crackly, well-smooshed roll, its innards swiped with mustard and drizzled with hot sauce. This substantial specimen is rich and tangy but streamlined enough to evoke the kind of sandwich you might find in an old-school Cuban luncheonette on Roosevelt Avenue. The fried-egg-and-cheese on a toasted poppy-seed Kaiser roll also deftly bridges the gap between crowd-pleasing classic and gourmet upgrade. It comes with sharp Oregon Cheddar and an optional choice of bacon, ham, or housemade pork sausage. Get the sausage, and for an umami sensation like no other, do as they do at the original Bunk and order it with add-on anchovies. As for the rest of the impressive roster, the roast-chicken salad with bacon and avocado is a contender. The meatball hero is spot-on. The tuna melt

is un-mayo'd in favor of oil and balsamic, plus mustard and pickles, and tasty as can be. And an Italian combo that brings together ham, three cured meats from Oregon's excellent Olympia Provisions, and a Mazzola hero roll could go up against any East Coast hoagie. If there's an underperformer in the bunch, it's the grilled Cheddar,

undone by pain de mie sliced so thick it's proportionately out of whack with the relatively spare amount of cheese.

Bunk could easily get away with serving just its signature sandwiches and the bags of Kettle chips that come with them, but the kitchen also turns out some great side dishes. Chief among these are burnt broccoli with garlic and chiles, a spectacular potato salad (credit the addition of bacon and eggs), and fries smothered with New Orleans-style debris gravy that puts the disco-fries competition to shame. For dessert, try a chocolate-chip cookie. After all, they're baked by the guy who used to help run Milk Bar.

ANOTHER EXCELLENT new purveyor of sandwiches can be found masquerading as a third-wave java joint in Greenwood Heights. For some time now, Southside Coffee has been serving up well-brewed George Howell espresso and drip coffee to an appreciative crowd of stocking-capped laptopers and young mothers toting tots in Ergobaby slings. But three months ago, partner Ben Jones (who also co-owns the restaurant Lot 2 across the street) added sandwiches to the lineup along with a talented sandwich-maker named Josh Sobel, and it's safe to say that Southside Coffee is now as much a destination for Italian heros, tuna melts, and bacon-egg-and-cheese sandwiches as it is for cortados and macchiatos.

Sobel's bona fides include kitchen stints at sandwich powerhouses Court Street Grocers and Mile End Deli, and the pedigree shows. Every one of his sandwiches is simply

★★★★
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Williamsburg
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Serve a star pairing for the holidays.

CHEDDAR

Semi-Hard Cheese

Similar Cheeses: Gruyère, Gouda, Colby

Tasting Notes: Crisp hops cut through the richness of the cheddar and bring out a gorgeous flavor on your palate, leaving guests wanting more.

PEPPER JACK

Spicy Cheese

Similar Cheeses: Chipotle Pepper Gouda, Mexicana Cheese

Tasting Notes: Well-balanced flavors even out the fieriness of the cheese, resulting in a wonderful harmony of spicy and smooth.

MELTED MOZZARELLA

Melted Hard & Semi-Soft Cheese

Other Cheeses: Pecorino, Provolone, Parmesan

Tasting Notes: Slightly sweet malts and light hops accentuate the creaminess of melted cheese, making it a perfect accompaniment to pastas, pizza and simple Belgian croquettes.

Panettone

superb. As at Bunk, the focus is on upgrading the classics. Thus the turkey in the turkey hero is roasted over at Lot 2, then loaded with Swiss, lettuce, avocado, and pickled red onion onto a Sriracha-mayo'd Caputo roll. It's moist, solid, satisfying. Ditto the tuna melt with sweet housemade bread-and-butter pickles on pan-griddled multigrain bread. There's also much to love about the juicy Italian combo (mortadella, salami, soppressata). It comes with sliced onion, iceberg lettuce, provolone, and Parmesan, and a three-pronged approach to lubrication: a classic oil-and-vinegar dressing, a piquant muffaletta-like olive-and-pepper spread, and a purist-enraging—yet undeniably flavorful—swipe of mayonnaise.

As delicious as the above concoctions are, Southside's masterwork is the drippy, soul-soothing, hangover-quashing Southside breakfast sandwich: unfathomably fluffy scrambled eggs, Heritage Meats ham, Cheddar, pickled onion, and "breakfast mayo" on a toasted brioche roll. What, you ask, is breakfast mayo? Well, it's a riff on red-eye mayo, a recipe Sobel freely admits borrowing from the Momofuku cookbook. His take is essentially housemade mayo mingled with maple syrup, Dijon mustard, and George Howell coffee grounds, and something that once sampled you'll crave forever.

Southside is also known for its pastries and apple pie, baked by Lot 2 pastry chef Amber Sather. On weekends, this young sugar whiz sends over a batch of freshly baked buttermilk biscuits, which Sobel stuffs with eggs, bacon, and pickled jalapeños. The promise of one is enough to roust the deepest sleeper, but happily the BEC biscuit (and every other breakfast sandwich) is available to the very civilized hour of 3 p.m.—or at least until the biscuits run out.

SCRATCHPAD

BUNK: Two stars for the solid sandwiches, one for the debris fries.

SOUTHSIDE COFFEE: One star for the thoughtful fillings, another for the careful construction, and a third for those biscuits.

BITES

BUNK: IDEAL MEAL: Pork-belly Cubano, debris fries. **NOTE:** Look for daily soup specials, like a stellar turkey chili. **OPEN:** Daily for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. **PRICES:** \$3 to \$12.

SOUTHSIDE COFFEE: IDEAL MEAL: Southside breakfast sandwich, coffee. **NOTE:** House-baked pastries are available Tuesday to Saturday. **OPEN:** Daily for breakfast and lunch. **PRICES:** \$6 to \$12.

"Panettone has this terrible rap," says chef Adam Leonti, who recently opened the Brooklyn Bread Lab in East Williamsburg. He admits to having been a doubter of the sweet Italian Christmas bread himself until his first revelatory bite in the Bergamo restaurant where he once worked. "Our baker spent four days making it," he says. "This precious loaf came out. It's like eating cotton candy. It's got this light air." Leonti strives for the same in his panettone, which combines his favorite aspects of the Milanese and Venetian versions with a few personal tweaks. "I definitely white-trashed it up a little bit and put chocolate in it—that good old hit-you-over-the-head kind of flavor idea." But he adheres to tradition where it counts: "You have to hang it upside down for 24 hours," he says. "Otherwise it collapses." R.R. & R.P.

On the menu at
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The Year in Recipes

Themed cookbook pairings for every appetite on your gift list.

BY ROBIN RAISFELD AND ROB PATRONITE

FOR THE WOULD-BE FIREMASTERS

➔ In ***Feeding the Fire*** (Artisan Books; \$30), New Jersey native Joe Carroll proves that you don't need to come from a long line of Texas pitmasters to make great barbecue. Nor do you need expensive equipment. What you need, says the self-taught Carroll (who runs barbecue joint Fette Sau and the Williamsburg steakhouse St. Anselm), is simply an understanding of fundamentals, which he lays out in 20 'cue commandments. That, plus the right wood and good meat. **Make this:** pork belly smoked like a beef brisket (p. 54).

➔ The 52 recipes Upland chef Justin Smillie provides in ***Slow Fires: Mastering New***

Ways to Braise, Roast, and Grill (Clarkson Potter; \$40) are not the type you knock off on a casual Tuesday night. They are long-weekend projects requiring advance planning and a cleanup crew. Yet Smillie's learn-the-rules-then-break-them approach—not to mention the promise of his incredibly delicious food—will inspire even slacker cooks to dive in. **Make this:** real porchetta (p. 181).

FOR NOSHERS AND FRESSERS

➔ Home cook Leah Koenig wrote ***Modern Jewish Cooking*** (Chronicle; \$25) with a local, seasonal, multi-culti, and veggie-friendly bent that excavates and enlivens a cuisine buried under centuries of tradition (and schmaltz). But what's a little global

influence and creative tinkering to a style of cooking that's defined by exile and adaptation? **Make this:** mango-ginger tzimmes (p. 132).

➔ Like most great chefs, Michael Solomonov found success by forsaking "authenticity" and forging his own style: inspired by the flavors of his Israeli birthplace, informed by stints in French and Italian kitchens, and fueled by local American ingredients (and his own palate). In ***Zahav*** (Houghton Mifflin; \$35), written with business partner Steven Cook, he chronicles his journey from disaffected youth to hummus king of Philadelphia. **Make this:**

tehina shortbread cookies (p. 66).

FOR THE DINING-ROOM-CHAIR TRAVELER

➔ With chefs like Sean Brock trumpeting West Africa's influence on the American South, Pierre Thiam's ***Senegal*** (Lake Isle Press; \$35) couldn't be better timed. It contextualizes a cuisine that, once marginalized by colonial policies that supplanted native agriculture with export-earmarked cash crops, shows signs of grass-roots revitalization. Thiam's book is part travelogue, part teaser for his line of small-batch imports. **Make this:** boiled peanuts (p. 118).

➔ New Nordic Cuisine has hogged the spotlight, but what of old

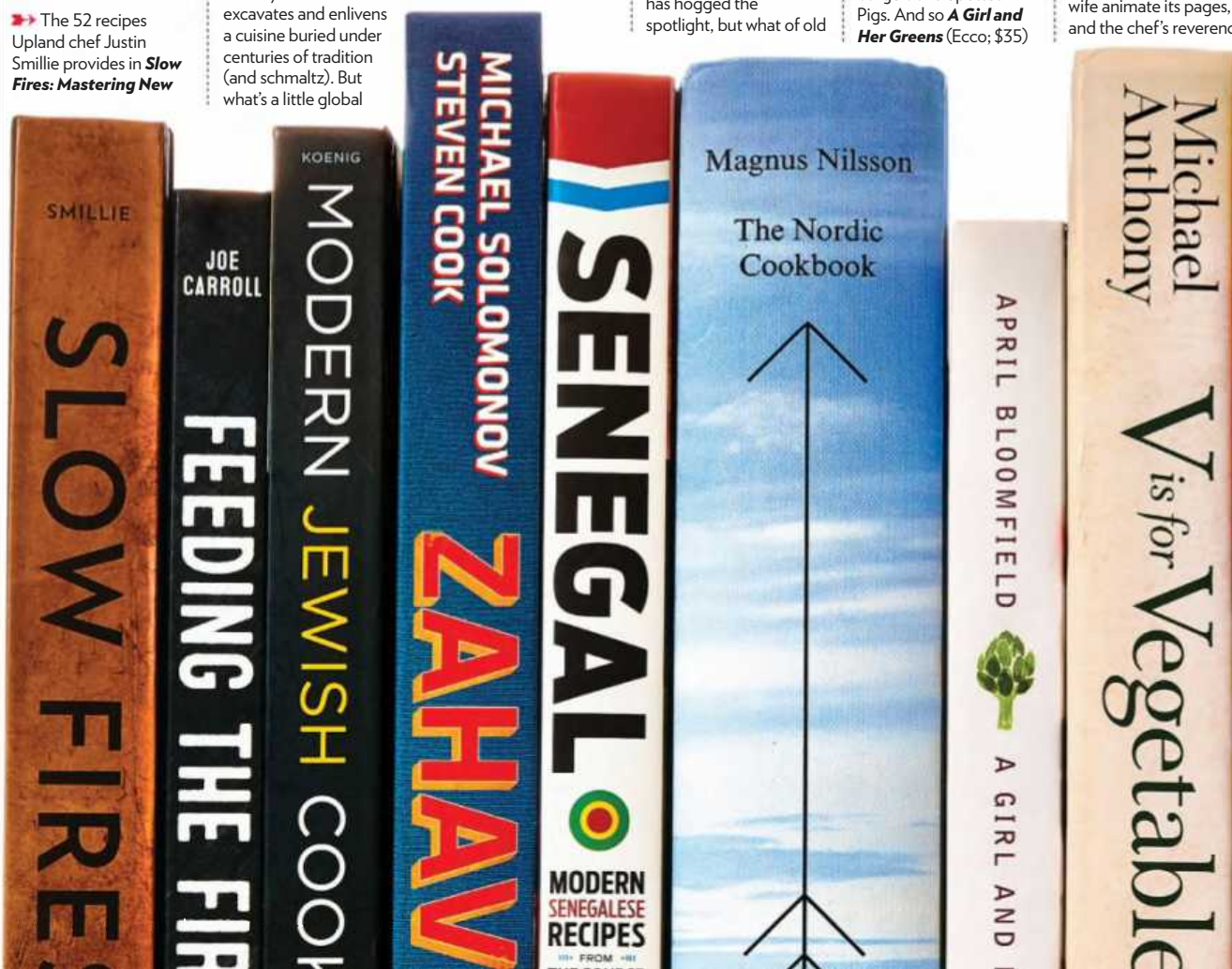
Nordic? Fäviken chef Magnus Nilsson takes a 700-recipe dive into the home cooking of not only his native Sweden but also Denmark, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Greenland, and the Faroe Islands in ***The Nordic Cookbook*** (Phaidon; \$50). The photos are stunning, as are insights into whale blubber, rotten shark, and Swedish pizza (always served with cabbage salad). **Make this:** Danish-rye-bread-and-beer soup (p. 475).

FOR CONFIRMED VEGEVORES

➔ It has long rankled April Bloomfield that diners associate her mostly with blue-cheese burgers and Spotted Pigs. And so ***A Girl and Her Greens*** (Ecco; \$35)

shows the chef's plant-loving side, one honed in kitchens like London's River Café and Chez Panisse and tempered with generous lashings of butter, cream, and bacon. **Make this:** whole pot-roasted cauliflower with tomatoes and anchovies (p. 66).

➔ ***V is for Vegetables*** (Little Brown; \$40) tells you everything you need to know about Gramercy Tavern chef Michael Anthony's formative influences, alphabetically: his Ohio upbringing (E for Gamma Anthony's pickled eggplant), cooking school in France (L for leek quiche), and training in Japan (D for daikon and dashi). Line drawings by Anthony's wife animate its pages, and the chef's reverence





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for farmers gives it soul. **Make this:** rutabaga gratin (p. 269).

FOR INAUTHENTIC-ASIAN-FOOD JUNKIES

➔ In *Asian-American* (Grand Central Life & Style; \$32), Dale Talde defends MSG, pens a panegyric on the New York bodega, celebrates his Filipino mother's home cooking and the McNugget, and also endorses laziness in the kitchen. **Make this:** miso-marinated salmon, Reuben style (p. 143).

➔ "100 percent Inauthentic!" promises the back cover of Peter Meehan's *101 Easy Asian Recipes* (Clarkson Potter; \$35). Playing against type, Dave Chang's alter ego and the editor of the relentlessly elaborate *Lucky Peach* acknowledges that most of us just want to get tasty food on the table quickly and with minimal effort. Think the Momofuku cookbook crossed with your grandma's recipe Rolodex. **Make this:** rotisserie-chicken ramen (p. 98).

FOR MASA MAVENS

➔ "What does Mexico taste like?" Pujol's Enrique Olvera is asked in the foreword to his *Mexico From the Inside Out* (Phaidon; \$60). His answer: "Like fermentation, like ripe fruit, like compost"—but also, presumably, like his mole madre and corn-husk meringue, found here along with an Amphibians-to-Worms glossary that leaves no stone unturned or Mesoamerican foodstuff undefined. **Make this:** burrata in green salsa with quelites (p. 212).

➔ Things Alex Stupak doesn't like: the ghettoization of ethnic cuisines, the authenticity police, and his urge to prettify the humblest of foods. Things he does: tortillas, salsas, and tacos, each of which gets a chapter in *Tacos* (Clarkson Potter; \$32.50). Mine the index for inside jokes: "Kennedy, Diana, with apologies to," directs you not to a page that cites the legendary cook but to Stupak's defense of masa harina. **Make this:** salsa macha (p. 89).



High Street on Hudson

637 Hudson St., at Horatio St.; 917-388-3944

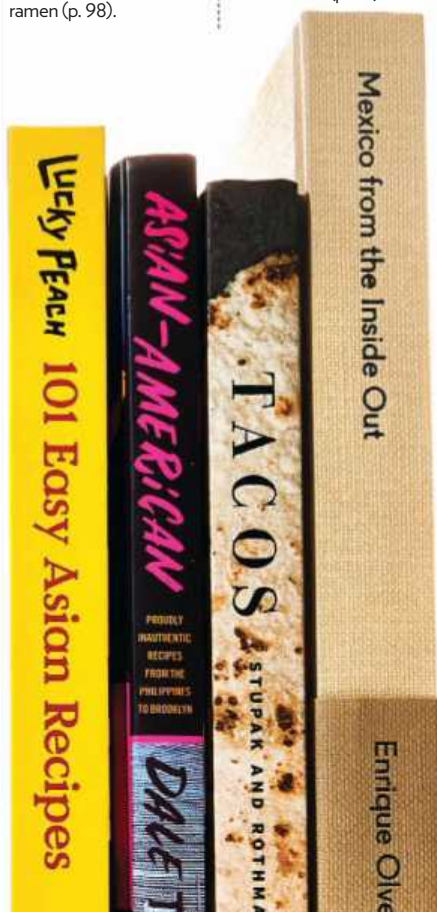
SINCE IT OPENED two years ago, Philadelphia's High Street on Market has captured the culinary Zeitgeist on any number of levels: hearty destination breakfast, savvy tweaks on classic sandwiches, serious breads and showstopping pastries, and just the right amount of shtick-free local representation, from Lancaster bologna to pretzel rolls. Now, partners Ellen Yin and chef Eli Kulp transplant the award-winning formula to a new city, a move that represents a professional homecoming for Kulp and head baker Alex Bois, both of whom toiled anonymously in Manhattan kitchens (Torrisi Italian Specialties and Sullivan Street Bakery, respectively) before making their names in Philly. Kulp, who was paralyzed during May's Amtrak derailment, has assembled a kitchen team that includes former Craft chef Taylor Naples and key personnel from his own restaurant group. They'll collaborate on such High Street signatures as smoked whitefish on a black bialy, and a roasted turkey sandwich with green-goddess dressing (pictured), plus menu additions like a sausage-egg-and-cheese on a sage-black-pepper biscuit, and a raft of new pastries and breads, all available for retail sale. Breakfast and lunch launch first, with dinner to follow, including a \$60 "Leave It to Us" prix fixe. And the dining room has been furnished with church-pew booths and a chef's counter that faces the open kitchen and Bois's bread oven.

Brodo at Morgenstern's

2 Rivington St., nr. Bowery; 212-209-7684

HERE'S AN EXCITING culinary collaboration you don't come across every day: Brodo and Morgenstern's Finest Ice Cream. That's right. Marco Canora is taking his bone-broth concept and popping it up out of the window at Nick Morgenstern's scoop shop. As it turns out, the two Gramercy Tavern vets are members in good standing of a mutual-admiration society. "He's an ice-cream ninja," says Canora. "He's an OG legend," says Morgenstern. So for the next few months, the full East Village Brodo menu will be available at Morgenstern's, plus two new holiday-inspired elixirs: The "What Came First" (organic egg yolk, freshly grated nutmeg, organic chicken broth) is Canora's savory take

on eggnog (\$7 for ten ounces), while Morgenstern's contribution, the St. Nick, goes where no bitter, 100 percent chocolate mass has gone before—into a piping-hot cup of grass-fed gingered beef broth, mingled with a shot of coconut milk (\$7.75). "It's hot chocolate but as broth," says Canora. "It's like broth hot cocoa," clarifies Morgenstern. "It's just fucking outrageous," says Canora. R.R. & R.P.



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PLUS



The top ten graphic novels, video games, stand-up specials and albums, and podcasts, and the things Brad Pitt, Keri Russell, Chris Rock, Ellie Kemper, Justin Theroux, and Ta-Nehisi Coates loved this year.

TOP TEN LISTS have a bad reputation. They're maligned in snootier corners as the lazy, click-baiting stepchildren to more nuanced, unnumbered pieces of critical writing. Obviously we disagree with that assessment, and if we had the space, we'd present you with "The Top 10,000 Reasons the Snobs Are Wrong and Top Ten Lists Are Terrific." But since we don't, here's one argument in lists' favor. Rather than being reductive, they expand the mind by narrowing its focus. Lists are also good sport (unless you're not on them). Critics approach them knowing their picks will be held up against their peers', and that someone is making lists of lists and deciding whose is most worthy. It's the Olympics of criticism, with critics as the judges and the judged. No list can contain all the good cultural offerings in any given field in any given year, of course; to that end, we've allowed an out: *sub-lists*, enabling our judges to zoom in even closer on, say, a stellar turn in a film. So enjoy these 14 lists—and, if you haven't already, the cultural products they applaud—then head to Vulture for even more.



THE TEN BEST

Movies

OF THE YEAR

By David Edelstein

1.

Room

The Irish-born writer Emma Donoghue and director Lenny Abrahamson transform lurid true-crime material—inspired by stories of girls imprisoned for years by sexual psychopaths—into a kind of fairy tale. Five-year-old Jack (Jacob Tremblay) is the son of a rapist (barely seen) and his captive (Brie Larson), but he doesn't know he's living in a ten-by-ten-foot shed. Thanks to a ma who reads to him and encourages him to write and draw his own tales, he thinks "room" is the whole world, and he invests every object in it with life. Tremblay is very fine in early scenes but even more remarkable when his world goes from limited space and infinite warmth to infinite space and limited warmth.

Watching Larson's Ma—worn raw by fear, abuse, and deprivation but fighting every second to be a reassuring parent—you know you're in the presence of a major film actress. The evil depicted here is hard to fathom, but the good is more mysterious yet: the capacity of a child—when guarded by a loving parent—to project kindness onto the most malevolent environment.

2.

The Big Short

Adam McKay's adaptation of Michael Lewis's book about the 2008 collapse of the subprime-mortgage market and a few canny outsiders who saw the labyrinthine fraud at its center is an ingenious blend of journalism, comedy, and suspense. We root for these men—among them Steve Carell, Christian Bale, Ryan Gosling, and

PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY OF A24 (ROOM); JAAP BUITENDIJK/COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES (THE BIG SHORT); COURTESY OF DISNEY PIXAR (INSIDE OUT); CINECLASSICO/ALAMY/COURTESY OF PASSION PICTURES (LISTEN TO ME MARLON); COURTESY OF LAURIE ANDERSON (HEART OF A DOG); KERRY HAYES/COURTESY OF OPEN ROAD FILMS (SPOTLIGHT); JASON ROBINETTE/



Top Ten Movie Performances

By David Edelstein



1. Brie Larson, *Room*
Every time you see her, you forget you've seen her before—she's that good.

2. Steve Carell, *The Big Short*
The (edgy) moral center, his hedge-funder is the picture of a man at odds with his own instincts.

3. Saoirse Ronan, *Brooklyn*
She pronounces it *Seer-she*, and you better learn it.

4. Blythe Danner, *I'll See You in My Dreams*
We knew her range and depth from theater, but it has taken this long to see her transcendent soul onscreen.

5. Chiwetel Ejiofor, *Zorich Zuchariach*
No one saw this postapocalyptic chamber piece, but his performance—a cauldron of rage and fear—is a major one.

6. Michael Shannon, *99 Homes*
As a predatory Florida Realtor, he shows how a man can channel his demons with society-destroying efficiency.

7. Jason Mitchell, *Straight Outta Compton*
His volatile Eazy-E is the movie's least homogenized character, the hunger for status turning every scene he's in into a nail-biter.

8. Cynthia Nixon, *James White*
Her final intense, intimate scenes with Christopher Abbott as her son define rage against the dying of the light.

9. Jennifer Jason Leigh, *The Hateful Eight*
The third phase of JJJ's career kicks into high, surreal gear with her cackling demon, wearing her battered face as a badge of honor.

10. John Slattery, *Spotlight*
The least-sung performance on this list, it's a quiet, beautifully judged portrait of an editor who'd rather be doing anything than what he's compelled to do.

Brad Pitt—to be proved right. Then we realize their triumph came at the cost of *our money*.

3. Inside Out
Pixar's Pete Docter imagines the mind of an adolescent girl as a surreal city with a high-tech control-tower HQ overseen by five emotions (Amy Poehler's Joy is the cheerleader) working in harmony and, frequently, disharmony. The movie will inspire sad girls and boys and the grown-ups who grew up from them for as long as there are movies.

4. Listen to Me Marlon
A documentary assembled by Stevan Riley from hundreds of hours of audiotapes made by Marlon Brando over decades, accompanied by photos, interviews, film clips, and a sort of cyber life mask of the actor. A tad arty? Yes. But in mapping the contents of Brando's psyche—his raw intelligence, his visceral hatred of authority and confinement, his self-contempt—Riley illuminates the genius of the greatest of all film actors and the art of acting itself.

5. Heart of a Dog
Laurie Anderson narrates her lucid dream of a movie as if it were *Rod Serling's Tibetan Book of the Dead*, rippling out from the death of her rat terrier, Lolabelle, into regions familiar from her musical and spoken works: the ever-encroaching surveillance state; predators natural and man-made; the plasticity of

language; and, above all, the beautiful practice of walking, eyes open, into death and the afterlife. It's a gorgeous weave.

6. Spotlight
The horror builds gradually in Tom McCarthy's step-by-step procedural drama, in which a team of Boston *Globe* reporters goes deep into the weeds to prove the existence of a vast number of pedophile priests protected by the Catholic Church—as well as an intensely tribal community that makes up much of the newspaper's subscriber base. It has one of the best ensembles—top to bottom—in years, anchored by Michael Keaton as an editor increasingly appalled by his own history of nonaction.

7. Timbuktu
Marauding jihadists bring Sharia to this multicultural Mali city on the edge of the Sahara in Abderrahmane Sissako's great film, a mix of satire and melodrama and tragedy that jells. It's a movie to see if you think Muslim culture is monolithic—whereas the greatest threat its murderous fundamentalists pose is not to the West but the people of Mali and, at this moment, Iraq and Syria.

8. Experimenter
Michael Almereyda's playfully self-deconstructing biopic of Stanley Milgram, the social scientist known for his 1961 study on the willingness to obey "malevolent authority."

(Volunteers were ordered to zap other volunteers.) As Milgram, Peter Sarsgaard finds a perfect balance between clinical dispassion and moral urgency. Milgram wanted to know why decent people participated in the Holocaust. He said we're puppets but we have free will: The trick is learning to see the strings.

9. Mustang
Director Deniz Gamze Ergüven's dizzyingly evocative debut centers on five beautiful, boisterous Turkish sisters who smash against the strictures of religious fundamentalism when their uncle decides they've brought shame on him—and he begins to arrange their marriages. This is intensely humanistic filmmaking—exhilarating but with an aura of dread. As the youngest and most willful daughter, Günes Sensoy has a fiercely intelligent presence.

10. Chi-raq
Spike Lee's movies can be overfull of messages—placards—but in this loose adaptation of Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*, they're put to madly satirical use—on the way to mounting a howl of protest against an ongoing Chicago tragedy born of guns and gang rivalry. Teyonah Parris is the bombshell who leads the women of the city in a sexual boycott—"No peace, no pussy"—that spreads to the whole world. It's too long, too indulgent, too too. It's also everything that agitprop theater should be.

THE TEN BEST

Pop

ALBUMS
OF THE YEAR

By Lindsay Zoladz

1. Kendrick Lamar, *To Pimp a Butterfly*
To Pimp a Butterfly isn't a perfect album, but it's the one we needed. Compton rapper Kendrick Lamar's searing third album is as much an interrogation of institutional power as it is an interrogation of self. He stares into a cracked mirror on the nightmarish "u" and grapples with the capitalistic trappings of his fame on the funkadelic "Wesley's Theory." Throughout, Kendrick spits with casual virtuosity, like he's tired of proving he's the most dexterous rapper in the game, but whenever *Butterfly* risks getting caught up in his head, his band's grooves bring everything back down to Earth.

2. Jamie xx, *In Colour*
 "I go to loud places, to search for someone to be quiet with," xx vocalist Romy sings, summing up the contradiction that lies at the heart of her erstwhile bandmate Jamie's gorgeous solo debut. This is club music for shy people—more silent disco than raging party. But there's a raucous, uplifting celebration toward the end, the title of which feels like a hard-won promise: "I Know There's Gonna Be (Good Times)."

3. Jenny Hval, *Apocalypse, Girl*
 "One good thing about being a woman is we haven't too many examples yet of what a genius looks like," Sheila Heti wrote in *How Should a Person Be?* "It could be me." This is the kind of freedom that emboldens the Norwegian artist Hval on this daring yet tuneful record, the first example of a genre she dubs "soft-dick rock."

4. Tame Impala, *Currents*
 Catchy and spaceship sleek, the terrific *Currents* finds Aussie band Tame Impala streamlining their sprawling, psychedelic sound into tunes you can dance to. Their sonic touchstones are as varied as they are unexpected: Phil Collins, Black Sabbath, *Discovery*-era Daft Punk.

5. Grimes, *Art Angels*
 Three years after her breakthrough *Visions*, Grimes delivered her self-recorded weirdo pop opus. *Art Angels* ping-pongs between sugar-rush joy and fine-tuned aggression. It feels less like an appeal to a mass audience than it does a handwritten declaration of independence.

6. Carly Rae Jepsen, *Emotion*
 Though Jepsen's a little too low-key to amass herself a #squad and declare herself a queen, these songs quietly did the whole '80s-pastiche thing even better than Taylor Swift. *Emotion* was the best pure pop album of the year.

7. Jack Ü, Skrillex and Diplo Present Jack Ü
 When EDM's merry pranksters Skrillex and Diplo released this mixtape, it seemed like a lark—that name, a song with Justin Bieber? But the energy is frantic, the production is inventive, and the guests are bonkers (quoct 2 Chainz: "Yeah, I'm the shit/I should have Febreze on me").

8. Sufjan Stevens, *Carrie & Lowell*
 This year, no song broke my heart more brutally than "Fourth of July," Sufjan Stevens's ode to his terminally ill mother that ends with a devastating refrain: "We're all gonna die." The whisper-quiet, *Carrie & Lowell* is a fractured portrait of Stevens's troubled, absent mother, long-suffering stepfather, and the brooding child left to tell their story.

9. Tenement, *Predatory Headlights*
 On this brilliant double album, Tenement is after something more ambitious than the pop-punk tag they're often wrongly labeled with, as the Wisconsinites place jangly gems alongside jazzy experimentation and sonic collages.

10. Drake, *If You're Reading This It's Too Late*
 Drake dominated 2015 without even really trying. His tossed-off "Hotline Bling" became his highest-charting single, and this mixtape sold more than a million copies. Though *IYRTITL* sags a bit in the middle, its highlights feature some of Drizzy's fiercest-ever bars.

Top Ten Songs

By Lindsay Zoladz



- 1. "Where Are Ü Now," Jack Ü Featuring Justin Bieber**
 A career-resuscitating slow jam with a drop that feels like 4 a.m. at an undersea rave.
- 2. "Trap Queen," Fetty Wap**
 Cooking crack never sounded so romantic until Fetty Wap hey-what's-up-hello'd out of nowhere and gifted the world with this undeniable anthem.
- 3. "Gosh," Jamie xx**
 A hypnotically simple song that encapsulates everything great about the producer's debut album, *In Colour*.
- 4. "Hotline Bling," Drake**
 A beat like Heaven's hold music, a hook that summons your most geriatric dance moves. For once, the ends actually justify the memes.
- 5. "Run Away With Me," Carly Rae Jepsen**
 He called her. Definitely. And then she made this soaring, saxophone-kissed ode to the post-crush feeling.
- 6. "Uptown Funk," Mark Ronson Featuring Bruno Mars**
 "Uptown Funk" will be played at every wedding reception you attend for the rest of your life, and its opening notes will fill you with neither embarrassment or dread.
- 7. "What Kind of Man," Florence + the Machine**
 The punk-rock song reimagined, brilliantly, as a spell, an invocation, a hex.
- 8. "Can't Feel My Face," The Weeknd**
 An ex-underground R&B lothario's triumphant transformation from neo-Prince to neo-M.J.
- 9. "When We Were Young," Adele**
 Pop's old soul goes full Bette Midler, with a welcome dash of "Piano Man" dive-bar pathos thrown in.
- 10. "Cé U Lar Devise," Erykah Badu**
 Miss Badu flips the script on 2015's most familiar pop curio ("Hotline Bling") and makes it sound like a transmission from another, more chill galaxy.



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THE TEN BEST

Television

SHOWS OF THE YEAR

By Matt Zoller Seitz

1. **Hannibal**

(NBC)

Other series were more comprehensible, and nearly all were less gore-soaked, but none were as consistently innovative and sublime as Bryan Fuller's take on Thomas Harris's fiction. This visionary drama evoked German Expressionist cinema, glossy-pretentious art-house pictures like *The Hunger* and *Zentropa*, super-sexy fan fiction, and even experimental film. The climactic showdown was the most orgiastic display of choreography, music, lighting, and gore since the glory years of *Miami Vice*.

2. **The Americans**

(FX)

This spy drama was already on track to be one of the best series of the new century, but season three sealed the deal, charting the moral and emotional spiral of the Jennings family as it drew a previously oblivious teenager into the secrets and lies of her parents.

3. **Mad Men**

(AMC)

Its final half-season was a summation of everything Matthew

Weiner's period drama ever was or wanted to be and also an exponential raising of its literary and psychological stakes. Some viewers balked at the attention paid to peripheral characters like Diana the waitress, but the democratic storytelling sensibility paid off in the final episodes, depicting the dissolution of both Don Draper and the agency he did so much to build.

4. **BoJack Horseman**

(NETFLIX)

Few shows have grown as much in season two as this animated series, a semi-satirical comedy-drama set in a world where humans and anthropomorphized animals mingle in the entertainment business. Jumping off from the more tonally varied episodes near the end of season one, the sophomore outing delved deeper into the psychology of its title character, a tortured man-child (horse-colt?) whose selfishness and self-destructive tendencies made him seem like Don Draper with hooves.

5. **Show Me a Hero**

(HBO)

David Simon's mini-series about a

housing crisis in 1980s Yonkers, New York, was his richest work since season four of *The Wire*. Anchored by a career-best performance by Oscar Isaac as a crusading councilman who becomes mayor, it gloried in atmosphere as well as political process.

6. **Rectify**

(SUNDANCE TV)

Ray McKinnon's series about a death-row inmate trying to adapt to life after prison was already one of the most beautiful, wrenching, and unfashionably quiet dramas on TV; it raised its game in season three by calling his story, and our sympathies, into question.

7. **Jessica Jones**

(NETFLIX)

Season one of Melissa Rosenberg's series about a private eye and secret superhero is easily the best thing to have appeared under the Marvel banner, in large part because it is permitted to be its own thing, with seemingly little regard for fitting into the larger universe.

8. **Black-ish**

(ABC)

Kenya Barris's series about an upper-middle-class black family in a mostly white suburb came back for a second season carrying itself like a hybrid of *Malcolm in the Middle* and *All in the Family*, if you can imagine such a thing.

9. **The Leftovers**

(HBO)

Season two of Damon Lindelof and Tom Perrotta's religious drama took all sorts of risks: departing from Perrotta's source novel, adding new cast members, relocating much of the action to a new town, and devoting more episodes to one or two characters instead of hopscotching amid the usual ensemble.

10. **Fargo**

(FX)

As if the ongoing narrative about a war between midwestern crime families in the 1970s wasn't compelling and original enough, executive producer and head writer Noah Hawley threw in a conspiracy to cover up a manslaughter, fake period snippets from the films of Ronald Reagan, appearances by Reagan himself, split screens, '70s-era album-rock deep cuts, big sideburns, bigger lapels, and enough slyly deployed Coen-brothers references to guarantee more than one rewatch by obsessives.

Top Ten TV Episodes

By Matt Zoller Seitz



1. **"No Room at the Inn," *The Leftovers*** (HBO)

Matt Jamison and his pregnant wife, Mary, try to get back home, enduring suffering that even Job might find a bit much; the final image has talismanic power.

2. **"Stingers," *The Americans*** (FX)
Teenage Paige finds out the truth about her parents in a series of exquisitely acted, written, and directed scenes that are all the more devastating for their economy and quiet.

3. **"Digestivo," *Hannibal*** (NBC)
The conclusion of season three's Florence arc represents *Hannibal* at the apex of its ornate style and pulpy audacity.

4. **"Escape From L.A.," *BoJack Horseman*** (Netflix)

The most melancholy episode of the season, which is saying a lot; the second half felt like a missing subplot from *Short Cuts*.

5. **"International Assassin," *The Leftovers*** (HBO)
One of the damndest things you'll ever see on TV—an entire hour set in what might or might not be an alternate plane of existence.

6. **"Five-O," *Better Call Saul*** (AMC)
"I broke my boy."

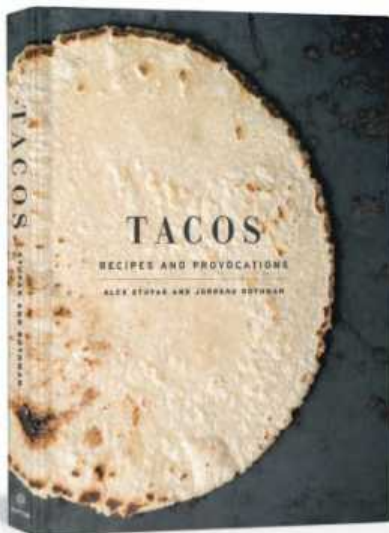
7. **"12 Angry Men Inside Amy Schumer," *Inside Amy Schumer*** (Comedy Central)
A self-aware and viciously funny referendum on the men who hold referendums on whether Schumer is attractive enough.

8. **"Pilot," *Catastrophe*** (Amazon)
More happens in the first five minutes than in entire seasons of other shows.

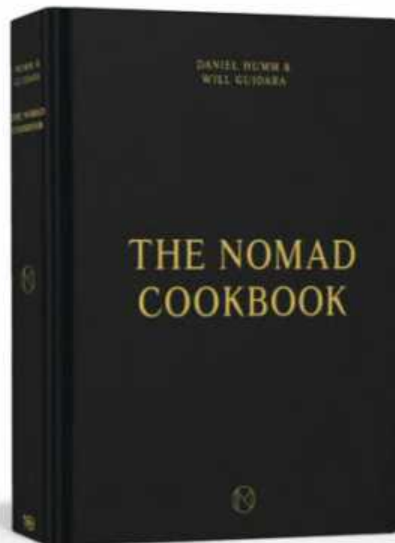
9. **"Time & Life," *Mad Men*** (AMC)
The sad mirror of season three's exuberant "Shut the Door. Have a Seat," this one charts the beginning of the end of the agency.

10. **"Rhinoseros," *Fargo*** (FX)
One of the most meticulously crafted hours of the past TV year, as well as one of the funniest, the most moving, and the most philosophically rich.

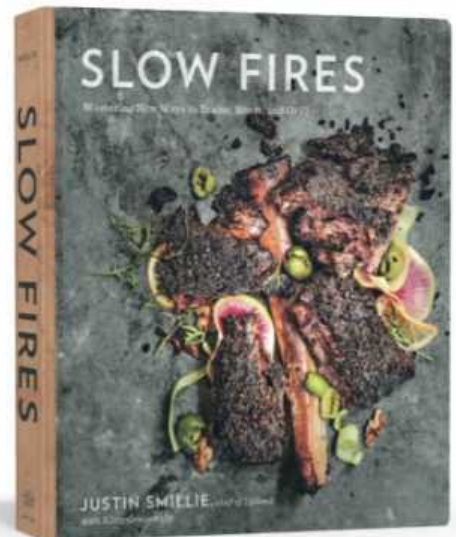
Three More Reasons to Love New York



from Alex Stupak, chef
and owner of **EMPELLÓN**
and Jordana Rothman



from Daniel Humm,
Will Guidara, and
Leo Robitschek, the
team behind **THE NOMAD**



from Justin Smillie,
executive chef
at **UPLAND**

Because Great Restaurants Make Great Cookbooks



THE TEN BEST

Books

OF THE YEAR

By Christian Lorentzen

1. **The Visiting Privilege: New and Collected Stories, by Joy Williams**

A Joy Williams story tends toward a moment of anti-epiphany, when a life or a world is rearranged, though the character living that life in that world may be blind to it. She emerged as a prodigy among the minimalists of the 1970s, and this volume traces her journey to sui generis master. Her nearest cousin among American writers is Don DeLillo, but only because, like him, nobody writes sentences like she does. A DeLillo sentence unfurls; a Williams sentence proceeds in a dazzling forward march. Here's one: "The baby's head is a white globe beneath my heart." Though she treats common states—parenthood, pet ownership, alcoholism—Williams eschews the realist story writer's bromide that in the ordinary we find the extraordinary, because there's nothing ordinary about her work.

2. *Mislaïd*, by Nell Zink
Shakespearean in shape, relentlessly antic, and utterly free of the pieties that afflict a lot of U.S. fiction, *Mislaïd* is the hilarious comedy of race and gender we didn't know we needed.

3. *Between the World and Me*, by Ta-Nehisi Coates
Coates's bracingly lucid and shattering open letter to his son has reset the terms for the way we talk about American race relations, turning our gaze back to the brutal structural injustices present at the nation's founding and still very much with us. The question is, where will Coates take us next?

4. *Against the Country*, by Ben Metcalf

Metcalf's novel is a treatise against



the American pastoral and the heartbreaking tale of a squalid and often brutal youth told in the ravishingly ironic voice of a man who was a boy who once greeted his school bus with a shotgun. But the real hero of the novel is the grammar of the English sentence.

5. **After the Tall Timber: Collected Nonfiction, by Renata Adler**

The sum of Adler's journalism traces the arc of U.S. history since she arrived at *The New Yorker* in the 1960s: from the collaboration of federal reformers and radical activists in the civil-rights era to the depredations of the independent counsel and the Supreme Court in the age of Clinton and Bush.

6. **Book of Numbers, by Joshua Cohen**

The most elaborate and penetrating novel of the internet age yet written, a successor to Thomas Pynchon's *Bleeding Edge*, *Book of Numbers* is also a ripe and riotous parody of Brooklyn-writer auto-fiction—that's all before it turns into a thriller.

7. **Satin Island, by Tom McCarthy**

A novel of contemporary networks told by a corporate anthropologist who embarks on the compilation of a never-ending and totalizing project of cultural analysis, *Satin Island* delivers indelible images of the wreckage of globalization with a deadpan charm.

8. *Eileen*, by Ottessa Moshfegh
Moshfegh's novel—her second, following last year's *McGlue*—is a triumph of voice that delivers its narrator, a young woman from a Massachusetts town called X-ville, from a dull life tending to her alcoholic father and working at a local prison into a spiral of violence.

9. **I Can Give You Anything But Love, by Gary Indiana**

No redemption story or tale of triumph over adversity, Indiana's memoir is one of a flinty childhood in New Hampshire and a raucous youth in California, with scenes of Cuba just before the recent thaw.

10. *Lurid & Cute*, by Adam Thirlwell
Shades of David Foster Wallace's *Brief Interviews With Hideous Men*—Thirlwell, Britain's former wunderkind and two-time pick in *Granta's* Best of the Young British Novelists, has written four works of fiction, but this Day-Glo noir is to my mind his breakthrough.

Top Ten Graphic Novels

By Abraham Riesman



1. **Step Aside, Pops, by Kate Beaton** (Drawn & Quarterly)

It has everything that's made Beaton an emerging titan: arch reimaginings of history, innovative riffs on antique book covers, gags about bird-feeding.

2. **Killing and Dying, by Adrian Tomine** (Drawn & Quarterly)

A collection of short stories that proves Tomine's unique talents haven't faded.

3. **SuperMutant Magic Academy, by Jillian Tamaki** (Drawn & Quarterly)

A lengthy, funny work about teens with paranormal powers.

4. **The Sculptor, by Scott McCloud** (First Second)

A phone-book-size epic of magical realism that's visually stunning and constantly surprising.

5. **Nimona, by Noelle Stevenson** (HarperTeen)

One of the best young cartoonists working today proves her mettle with this sword-and-sorcery-and-sci-fi tale.

6. **Chicago, by Glenn Head** (Fantagraphics)

This quasi-memoir stars a hero who believes he's searching for authenticity but is actually an infuriating narcissist.

7. **Black River, by Josh Simmons** (Fantagraphics)

Postapocalyptic storytelling isn't exactly in short supply these days, but Simmons does it really well.

8. **Wuvable Oaf, by Ed Luce** (Fantagraphics)

Formally inventive and heartfelt, *Wuvable Oaf* reads like a mid-century romance comic steeped in the sexual fantasies of classic underground comix.

9. **Virgil, by Steve Orlando and J. D. Faith** (Image)

An epic about a closeted Jamaican police officer seeking vengeance against the cops who attacked his boyfriend.

10. *Displacement*, by Lucy Knisley
(Fantagraphics)
Knisley deftly conveys the frustration of managing her ailing grandma while on a cruise.

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The Culturati Caucus

OVER THE PAST MONTH, we canvassed 118 culture creators about the year in movies, TV, music, books, and various other entertaining miscellany that flitted across their screens. As it turns out, a survey of the last 12 months in culture doubles as a pretty handy survey of what mattered in 2015.

Favorite Film Performance



11%

Cate Blanchett
Carol

"She's so incredibly luminous, real, subtle, deep, and effortless."

ARI GRAYNOR, actress

Favorite Movie

11%

Mad Max: Fury Road

"It was a gorgeous, gorgeous movie, a lesson in how to do more with less."

TA-NEHISI COATES, writer



OTHER FAVORITE FLICKS

8%

Inside Out

"It kind of got me. It really, really got me."

BRAD PITT, actor

5%

Spotlight

"It's the best film about journalism since All the President's Men."

DAVID SIMON, writer-producer

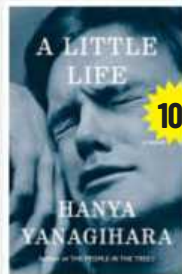
5%

Amy

"The documentary was sad, but completely absorbing."

ANDY BOROWITZ, comedian

Favorite Book



10%

A Little Life
Hanya Yanagihara

MORE STANDOUTS



9%

Number 11
Jonathan Coe

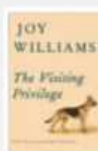
"It's all about modern Britain. So you New Yorkers won't care. But it's so wonderful."

JON RONSON, author



5%

Fates and Furies
Lauren Groff



5%

The Visiting Privilege
Joy Williams

Favorite Play or Musical

63%



Hamilton

"It's the obvious choice, and the deserving one."

JUSTIN PECK, choreographer-dancer

11%

The Humans

"It's in a minor key, but powerful. You walk away profoundly moved."

BILL CLEGG, author

7%

The Flick

4%

An American in Paris

"The perfect combination of the ballet world and American musical theater."

KATHIE LEE GIFFORD, TV host

MORE STAR TURNS

8%

Michael Fassbender
Steve Jobs

7%



Bel Powley
The Diary of a Teenage Girl

"Honest portrayal of being young."

DESIREE AKHAVAN, director

4%



Amy Poehler
Inside Out

"She hit that tone of joy so perfectly."

ADAM MCKAY, director

3%



Matt Damon
The Martian

"He took his feces and grew potatoes!"

JAY PHAROAH, actor

Most Important Person in the Culture

20%



Caitlyn Jenner

"She was emotionally illuminating."

JUSTIN THEROUX, actor

10%



Amy Schumer

"She found a fresh new way to talk about old topics."

KERI RUSSELL, actor

10%



Lin-Manuel Miranda

"I've seen his musical five times!"

MARISKA HARGITAY, actor

5%



Spike Lee

"He kept our focus on the plague of racism."

RAMI MALEK, actor

Favorite Superhero, a Selection



Supergirl



Firestorm



Nick Fury
Avengers



Lena Dunham and Tavi Gevinson

"They're feminist superheroes for the millennial age."

EMMA STRAUB, *author*

BREAKOUT HEROES



Scarlet Witch
Avengers

Favorite Pop Star

17%
Adele

Favorite Pop Song

16%
Hello
Adele
"She's stayed true to herself, and that comes through in the music."
HOZIER, *musician*



13%
The Weeknd
"The Weeknd is beautiful—beautiful soul, beautiful artistry. I love him."
FRANCESCO YATES, *musician*

7%
Sia
3%
Joni Mitchell
"Always."
MELISSA ROSENBERG, *writer-producer*

Silliest Controversy



29%
Starbucks's holiday cups aren't sufficiently Christmasy.

14%
Deflategate.

7%
Is Jennifer Lawrence tripping on purpose?

Favorite TV Performance



Carrie Coon
The Leftovers

"We all love Carrie Coon. I mean, you're a fool if you don't love Carrie Coon."

KATE MCKINNON, *actor*

Favorite TV Show



6%
The Leftovers
"It's beautiful. I'm fascinated by the choices these characters have to make."
ROBIN LORD TAYLOR, *actor*



5%
Empire
"It's all about Cookie! She looks amazing. She's outrageous. I'm still a little obsessed."
HOLLY TAYLOR, *actor*



5%
High Maintenance
"It's one of the most genuine portrayals of New York that I've ever seen."
MIRIAM SHOR, *actor*



4%
The Knick
"The acting is great, the story is great. It's like, 'Ooh, I wish I could be on *The Knick*.'"
CHRIS ROCK, *actor-director*

Favorite Cultural Discovery: A Smattering of Responses



Emoji Diversity
ANDREA MARTIN, *actor-writer*



Black Mirror
"I was totally blown away."
BOBBY MOYNIHAN, *actor*



Moderation
"I discovered that I don't have to have ice cream every night."
ELLIE KEMPER, *actress*

What Cultural Figure Needs Some Advice?



To Robert Durst:
"Learn the basics of AV technology."

SLOANE CROSLY, *author*

To Donald Trump:
"Shut up."
(The only response to get multiple votes.)

To Vladimir Putin:
"I'm not about to tell you, because he might find out."
DAVID ZASLAV, *president, Discovery Communications*

Most Heartwarming Moment



The Ending of 'Mad Men'

"The show kept its cynical, sexy, manipulative heart right to the closing scene."

JAMES GRISSOM, *author*

David Letterman's Farewell

Caitlyn Jenner Comes Out on '20/20'

REPORTING BY Samuel Anderson, Heather Buckley, Lisa Butterworth, Adrienne Gaffney, Ericka Goodman, Boris Kachka, Claire Landsbaum, Katie Livingston, Bennett Marcus, Vicki Salemi, Heather Schvedel, Renata Sellitti, Jamie Sharpe, Jonathan Shia, Jennifer Vineyard, Kat Ward.



THE TEN BEST

Theater

EVENTS OF THE YEAR

By Jesse Green

1. *The Humans*

ROUNDAABOUT THEATRE COMPANY
Great plays are usually culminating examples of existing ideas or groundbreaking examples of new things entirely. *The Humans*, by Stephen Karam, now at the Laura Pels and headed to Broadway, is, miraculously, both. Set squarely within the tradition of family-at-the-holidays plays, it is gripping: Karam's mastery of polyphonic, eddying conversation makes for an uncanny naturalism that the ideal cast, under Joe Mantello's direction, brings to fruition. But into this domesticity Karam has added terror. Weird noises, faulty wires, moments in which the familiar sickeningly falls away: All bring us to the brink of catastrophe, where we always teeter anyway. Rackingly funny even as it scares the bejesus out of you, *The Humans* is a moving demonstration of this irreducible paradox: Family love ennobles us by opening us to the pain of its dissolution.

2. *Hamilton*

PUBLIC THEATER/BROADWAY
Hard to believe that the mania around Lin-Manuel Miranda's hip-

hop Founding Father biomusical—the buzz, the Public run, the Broadway transfer, the ticket scramble, the presidential imprimatur—all happened in 2015. But some shows are so suited to their time, and so smart, that they seem to have been born full-grown. It's not a game-changer; it's just great.

3. *An Octoroon*

SOHO REP/THEATRE
FOR A NEW AUDIENCE
I didn't catch Branden Jacobs-Jenkins's postmodern melodrama when it debuted in 2014, but the 2015 restaging was one of the funniest and most shocking plays of the year. Setting his traps with sassy slaves trading Oprah-esque uplift, he led audiences directly into the core of race confusion and then blew it up.

4. *A View From the Bridge*

BROADWAY
If Arthur Miller's Greek tragedy set in 1950s Brooklyn never seems untimely, perhaps that's because the underpinnings of justice are always under attack. Ivo van Hove's spare, muscular staging upped the ante on Miller's moral vigor, with action so precipitous that it felt like being on an elevator whose cables were cut.

5. *Heisenberg*

MANHATTAN THEATRE CLUB
Mary-Louise Parker was once again beyond terrific as an oversharer with truthiness problems, who either does or does not fall in love with an elderly loner beautifully played by Denis Arndt. The title of Simon Stephens's two-hander suggests uncertainty: Personality is just a hunch. But if life is misapprehension, it is also, here, the occasion for kinship in suffering.

6. *Whorl Inside a Loop*

SECOND STAGE THEATRE
You may have thought you could guess the ending of a play about a white actress (Sherie Rene Scott) teaching "personal narrative" to a group of black prisoners. But in a slow turn that is imperceptible until it is almost complete, Scott and her co-author, Dick Scanlan, reveal a much richer, disturbing take on what constitutes rehabilitation.

7. *The Christians*

PLAYWRIGHTS HORIZONS
"We are no longer a congregation that believes in Hell," announces the megachurch pastor in Lucas Hnath's profound new play; naturally, all hell breaks loose. Religion emerges not as politics or psychopathology but as a necessary living argument.

8. *I'm Not the Stranger You Think I Am*

THEATRE FOR ONE
Christine Jones's radically immersive project called for you to sit in a very red, very small booth as a short one-person play (one of seven, by Lynn Nottage, Will Eno, and others) unspooled inches from your face. The tales were sad, the actors devastating, but the experience was like getting good news from a doctor: *Congratulations—you're human!*

9. *John*

SIGNATURE THEATRE COMPANY
In Annie Baker's latest experiment in radical realism, even the kitschy bed-and-breakfast came to life in a production, starring an astonishing Georgia Engel, that took the conventions of breakup tales and ghost stories and proved them to be the same thing.

10. *Hir*

PLAYWRIGHTS HORIZONS
The genderqueer Taylor Mac went genrequeer as well, trading performance art for a near sitcom about a woman (Kristine Nielsen) freed by a husband's stroke and a child's transition to become her monstrous self. Barely containing all its ideas, it marked the arrival of a disruptive voice in the mainstream—the stream that needs it most.

Top Ten Stand-up Specials and Albums

By Jesse David Fox



1. ↑ Tig Notaro, *Boyish Girl Interrupted*

Her mastery of pacing now feels quietly revolutionary.

2. **John Mulaney, *The Comeback Kid***
Mulaney has become a looser performer, which helps his material—about tried-and-true topics like getting married—feel fresh.

3. **Kyle Kinane, *I Liked His Old Stuff Better***
No longer simply a misanthrope, Kinane has evolved into a lowbrow idealist.

4. **Nate Bargatze, *Full Time Magic***
Bargatze proves himself a master at making big things out of something small and small things out of something big.

5. **Ron Funches, *The Funches of Us***
Lighthearted absurdity with a dash of provocation.

6. **Jen Kirkman, *I'm Gonna Die Alone (And I Feel Fine)***

Male privilege is the frequent target of this special, which includes a sadly funny bit about a dude who didn't know what a lime was.

7. **Eugene Mirman, *Vegan on His Way to the Complain Store***
Here, Mirman shows how his stand-up mentality subversively bleeds into his everyday life, as in his story about registering for Linked In as the senior VP of peep-ee at Verizon.

8. **Paul F. Tompkins, *Crying and Driving***

In the past, PFT has played around with traditional, observation-based stand-up specials, but this finds Tompkins going full raconteur to charming effect.

9. **Lil Rel Howery, *RELevent***

Reminiscent of Chicago stand-up legend Robin Harris, Lil Rel excels through the specificity of his characters and the richness of his portrait of his Windy City hometown.

10. **Beth Stelling, *Simply the Beth and The Half Hour***

Nowhere is the up-and-coming Stelling better than in her mom-versus-Sprint story.

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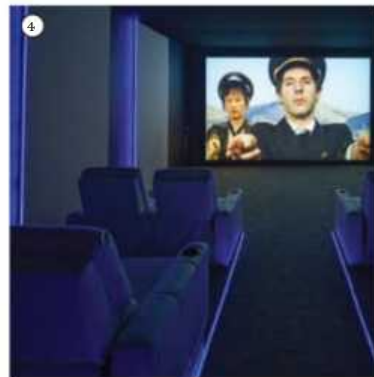
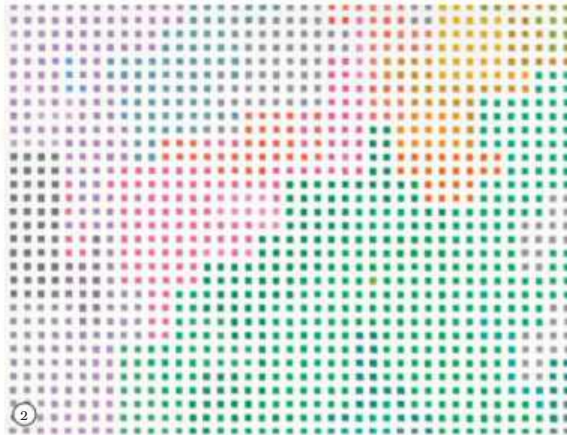
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THE TEN BEST

Art

SHOWS OF THE YEAR

By Jerry Saltz

1. **Whitney Museum of American Art**

A lot of hope, and that much more pressure, was riding on the Whitney to get its downtown move right and not blow all the good faith invested in this perennial we-try-harder institution. The Whitney didn't make it easy to love it either. Its Jeff Koons blowout in

2014 tested the most faithful (though the museum did pull it off). Ditto the announcement that the current retrospective of another divisive white male art star, Frank Stella, would be its maiden big-time survey in the new building. But the space is wonderful for art, even if it looks like a pharmaceutical building from the outside. In fact, this

schism between great inside and so-so outside is a possible harbinger for other museums: Get the space for art right and goodwill should follow.

2. **Cheyney Thompson, "Birdwings and Chambered Shells" at Andrew Kreps Gallery**

Cheyney Thompson's sixth solo painting show at this gallery—with its systemized colored dots and dashes arranged in patterns that are just beyond the grasp of cognition but scintillate the eye, the mind, and mingle with processes that feel primary and ever changing—made me want to marry one of these paintings.

3. **"Margret: Chronicle of an Affair—May 1969 to December 1970" at White Columns**

One of the most pathos-filled photography shows

of the year was this one, by "Günter K," an anonymous married 39-year-old Cologne businessman, and the Lolita-like object of his desire, "Margret S," his 24-year-old secretary.

4. **Hito Steyerl at Artists Space**
For a wild look at what "the expanded field of cinema" might mean in the future, look no further than this brilliantly visual, powerfully political artist who uses scenes of aircraft boneyards in California, an interview with an eccentric American entrepreneur, and CGI clips, all blended into incredible optical essays about information, power, the movement of capital, logarithms of the mind, and the human body.

5. **Leidy Churchman at Murray Guy**

What skill, touch, sensibility, sensitivity, and insight lay in

ARTWORKS: 1. COURTESY OF THE WHITNEY MUSEUM/PHOTOGRAPH BY RONALD AMSTUTZ; 2. COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND ANDREW KREPS GALLERY, NEW YORK; 3. COURTESY OF GALLERIE SUZANNE ZANDERDELMEIS & ZANDER; 4. COURTESY OF THE ARTIST; 5. COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND MURRAY GUY, NEW YORK; AND WILFRIED LENTZ, ROTTERDAM; 6. COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND MURRAY GUY, NEW YORK;



Top Ten Video Games

By Joshua Rivera



1. ↑ Life Is Strange
(PS4, Xbox One, PC)
Playing as a character who can rewind time allows you to send this mind-bending game into a spiral of cause and effect.

2. The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt
(PS4, Xbox One, PC)
A fantasy RPG with a sweeping story that's also full of small details, like Gwent, the fully realized card game many of its characters play.

3. Bloodborne
(PS4)
Set in a city populated by Lovecraftian horrors, Bloodborne entices with its enigmatic story and truly challenging gameplay.

4. SOMA
(PS4, PC)
A first-person sci-fi horror hybrid equal parts terrifying and cerebral, SOMA strands you in an underwater facility overrun by artificial life-forms.

5. The Room Three
(Android, iOS)
Feel your way around this puzzle-box game and find hidden latches and keys that let you probe deeper into the creepy occult-tinged story. Truly tactile.

6. Rocket League
(PS4)
It's soccer with cars!

7. Ori and the Blind Forest
(Xbox One)
Gorgeously animated, with a cold open that gently breaks your heart, Ori elevates its familiar running and jumping thanks to its beautiful presentation.

8. Mortal Kombat X
(PS4, Xbox One, PC)
Few fighting games are so full of stuff—the least of which being X's over-the-top story mode.

9. Lego Dimensions
(PS4, Xbox One, Wii U)
A new standard in gamer-ready Lego sets, bringing everything from superheroes to Doctor Who into the brick-filled playground.

10. Fallout 4
(PS4, Xbox One, PC)
It's easy to get lost in the strange, scary scenes that the developers have hidden across post-nuclear Boston, the very thing that'll keep you playing for a long time.

Leidy Churchman's achingly earnest realistic paintings that give us imagined landscapes, deep-sea creatures, real-estate palaces in the Manhattan sky—symbols that seem to uncover the tracks of modern life to things fundamental, urgent, and alluring.

6. Betty Tompkins at Bruce High Quality Foundation University Gallery
Thank God a younger generation of artists is rediscovering the incredibly excellent Betty Tompkins, who, in the 1960s, at the exact moment Chuck Close was commencing his giant face paintings, was making huge photo-realist close-up depictions ripped straight out of straight-male porn magazines. I like Tompkins way more than Close, not just for the porn but for how she reveals the secret

lives of women's tremendously intense vision.

7. Jamie Isenstein at Andrew Kreps
Jamie Isenstein's tricky, surreal, performative sculptures lit me up. I loved her banal-looking bed that looked to me like someone may have been inside it, occasionally rippling the sheets. Since she started showing in 2004, I don't think I've ever seen a work by this 40-year-old that didn't make me momentarily stop and get wonderfully flummoxed.

8. Ann Toebe at Monya Rowe
Sadly, Monya Rowe closed her fine Lower East Side space this summer, after operating in town since 2003. One of her final shows was replete with the spatially layered, fine-toothed realism of Ann Toebe, whose paintings depict domestic

interiors she's inhabited with family and friends. Her inner Vuillard mingles with cryptic color and Escher-like space.

9. Jackie Saccoccio at 11R
Jackie Saccoccio's double painting show of large dripped, brushed, slushed, and sluiced canvases of almost-undersea phosphorescent color showed how far out in front of the painterly curve this artist has been for more than a decade.

10. COBRA at Blum & Poe
Blum & Poe, the Los Angeles-based powerhouse gallery, scored big in its building-filling slice of one of the least-known mid-century postwar European art movements: COBRA. The show was organized by one of the smartest, most independent independent curators anywhere, Alison Gingeras, making it that much juicier.



THE TEN BEST

Classical

PERFORMANCES
OF THE YEAR

By Justin Davidson

1. **Written on Skin**

Leave it to the Mostly Mozart Festival to sneak the year's boldest musical stroke into the space left by that word *mostly*. George Benjamin's 2012 opera is distantly Mozartian in the precision of its craft and the way the score elaborates the characters' emotional logic. That justified a quick summer run—one of perfectionist bravado, stunningly performed. With one foot in a medieval tale and the other in the present, it celebrates and warns against the scorching power of creative work and the destructive power of talent. A wealthy boor with a bored wife makes the mistake of hiring a cultivated young man to do what he cannot: write and illustrate a book. The result is a domestic boil of lust, envy, and hate. At the same time, the production pointed up the chasms in our operatic terrain. We have no natural habitat for works too specialized for the Met and too daunting for pebble-size companies.

2. **National Sawdust's Opening Night**

A campfire clearing, a huge stadium—each shapes its music, and embodies a genre's idea of itself. That's why this high-tech hall in an old factory is a big deal. It brings

composers and musicians to a purpose-built spot where they can swap fantasies and help each other out—a safe space for fearless music.

3. **Lulu**

Despite James Levine's love for Alban Berg's *Lulu*, it has been a sporadic presence at the Metropolitan Opera. It's not clear what's scarier: the creeping nihilism, the body count, or the 12-tone score. Levine had to sit out this new production, but Marlis Petersen's performance and William Kentridge's hyperactive images powerfully argued for its quick return.

4. **Joan of Arc at the Stake**

Under Alan Gilbert, the New York Philharmonic became an indispensable provider of music drama. Arthur Honegger's oratorio-with-dialogue may not quite be an opera, but *Côme de Bellesceize* staged it as a full-scale theater event, complete with Play-Doh-colored costumes and Marion Cotillard.

5. **Rachmaninoff Piano Concertos**

The lanky young Russian pianist Daniil Trifonov has the competition wins, the wiry fingers, and the repertoire to pass as an old-style virtuoso. He headlined the

Philharmonic's Rachmaninoff festival, but listeners expecting to be strafed with notes were in for a surprise. Trifonov teased out the undercurrents of sensitivity beneath the showy swells.

6.

Il Trovatore

A baritone gets used to supporting roles—unless he's Dmitri Hvorostovsky, whose singing can alter the circuitry of an opera so that all the current runs through him. He had to take a break from treatment for a brain tumor to sing Count di Luna, but he didn't need an audience's indulgence or the extra drama; he needed only to sing as though it mattered, which it did.

7.

Anywhere in Time: A Conlon Nancarrow Festival

At the Whitney Museum's tribute to this oddball genius of a composer, a player piano inanimately produced some of the most vital American music of the 20th century. There were concerts, too, but those explosively complex hand-punched rolls best captured his spirit: He never trusted human fingers to play what he had in his relentlessly idiosyncratic mind.

8.

Susanna Mälkki

Finland turns out a disproportionate number of gifted musicians, including two theoretically splendid options to succeed Gilbert at the Philharmonic in 2017. One is the overlooked Esa-Pekka Salonen. The other is Mälkki, who, by the time she made her Philharmonic debut in a limpid performance of Brahms's First Piano Concerto with Kirill Gerstein, was already committed to another job. Who else ya got, Finland?

9.

Mark Padmore Sings Schubert

With a voice like an Alpine stream and an equally bracing intellect, Padmore sang Schubert's three major song cycles—*Die Schöne Müllerin*, *Schwanengesang*, and *Winterreise*—at Lincoln Center's White Light festival. There wasn't much room for spontaneity: Each breath was weighed, each syllable polished. But the miracle of Schubert's songs is that the passion and craftsmanship intensify each other.

10.

Semele

Experiencing Zhang Huan's production of Handel's opera at BAM was a little like listening to the soundtrack of one movie while watching another—a Baroque tangle of impossible love between gods and mortals laid over a spectacle of non sequiturs (sumo wrestlers, an ancient temple rebuilt onstage). It all worked, fueled less by logic than by sublime nonsense.

Top Ten Podcasts

By Nicholas Quah



1. **Death, Sex, & Money**

Anna Sale's interview podcast is the best—maybe ever—at exploring intimate topics with a deep sense of dignity.

2. **You Must Remember This**

Hollywood's first century was a cesspool of power and depravity. Karina Longworth's podcast dives into forgotten stories from that era.

3. **Another Round**

Pure conversational therapy for anybody who isn't a straight white dude living in a world built by straight white dudes.

4. **Reply All**

Despite the name, this isn't a podcast about technology—it tells gorgeous, human stories that happen to have technology sprinkled in.

5. **How to Do Everything**

A bizarre podcast that slyly subverts public radio's "gee whiz!" tendency, making highbrow inquiries into lowbrow questions like "How do you smuggle a live chicken?"

6. **Song Exploder**

A genius use of the audio form, this podcast brilliantly deconstructs songs by demonstrating, not just by telling, thus explicating the music-creation process.

7. **The Watch**

Grantland refugees Chris Ryan and Andy Greenwald are among the best pop-culture writers around, and fittingly, their podcast is one of the best pop-culture podcasts on the market.

8. **Limetown**

"The Message"/"The Black Tapes Podcast"

This entry may be a cheat, but these three podcasts represent a new wave: serialized audio fiction that's thoroughly modern and eminently listenable.

9. **Happier With Gretchen Rubin**

Part self-help and part social psychology, this is an advice-oriented hangout podcast with a gentle touch.

10. **Criminal**

True-crime stories retold in almost fablelike fashion—but fables aware of sociology.

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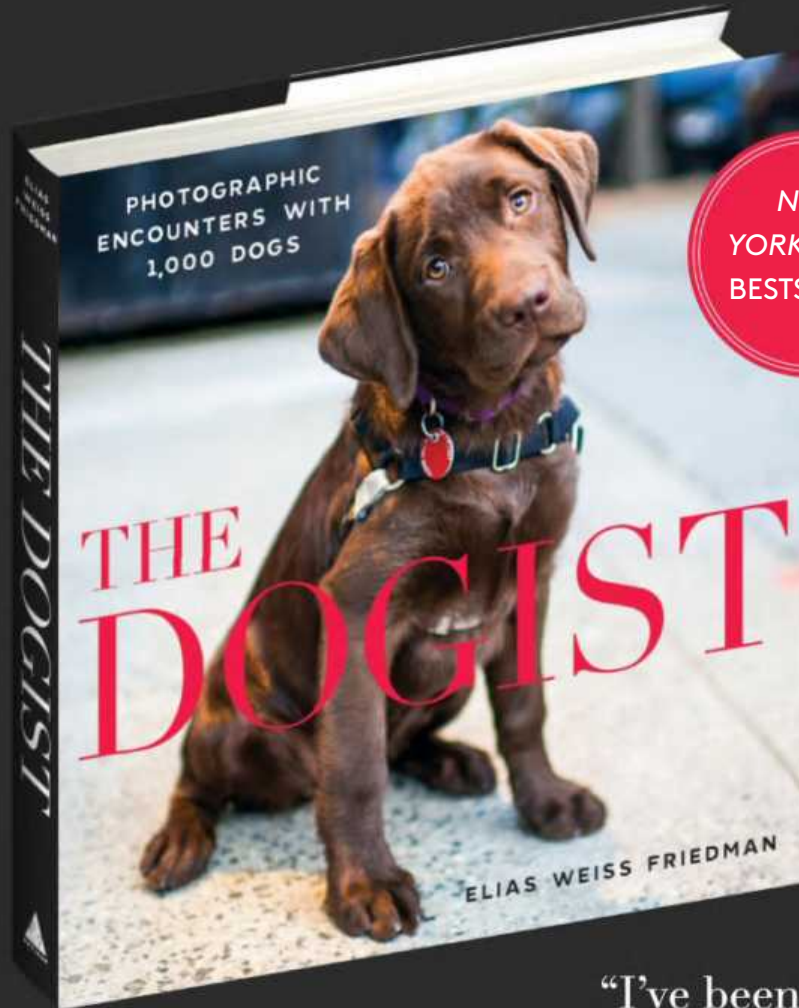
—BRINKS, PIT BULL, 11 YEARS OLD, PAGE 252

“This book is off the leash!”

—ROJO AND RIO, CHOW CHOWS, 1 AND 6 YEARS OLD, PAGE 155

“Better than squirrels.”

—MAZZIE, LABRADOR RETRIEVER/HOUND MIX, 6 YEARS OLD, PAGES 72-73



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“I can’t read.”

—GHOST, CANE CORSO, 2 MONTHS OLD, PAGE 18

“A real treat.”

—RAZZLE, BORDER COLLIE, 11 MONTHS OLD, PAGE 268

“Tail-wagging fun.”

—CLIFF, WHIPPET, 3 YEARS OLD, PAGE 127

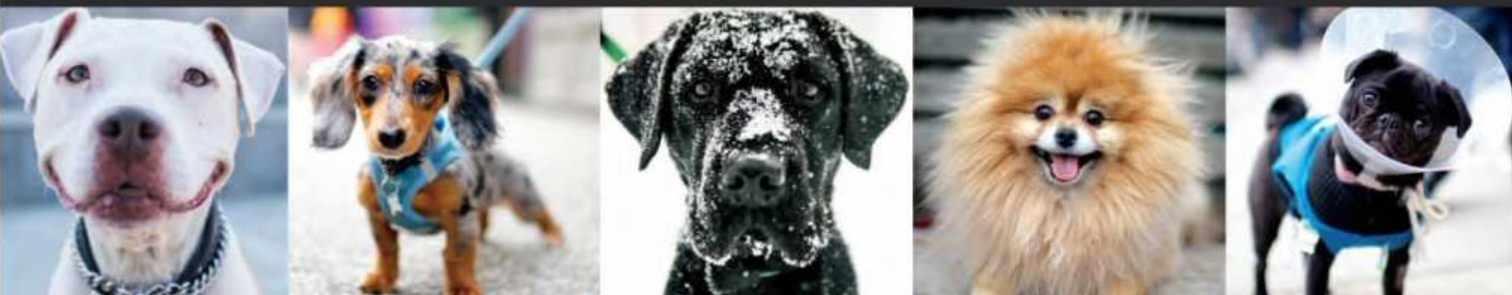
“I’ve been waiting for this book for fifty-six years.”

—ELLIOTT, GREAT DANE, 8 YEARS OLD, PAGE 227

“Would chew it all over again.”

—OSA, ROTTWEILER, 1 YEAR OLD, PAGE 108

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The CULTURE PAGES

CRITICS

David Edelstein on *The Revenant* and *Joy*.Leonardo DiCaprio
in *The Revenant*.

MOVIES / DAVID EDELSTEIN

What's Eating Hugh Glass

Leonardo DiCaprio plays an explorer and bear-mauling victim in *The Revenant*.



EARLY IN ALEJANDRO González Iñárritu's survival saga *The Revenant*, I gasped "Bloody hell!," meaning both "What an amazing filmmaker!" and "Get me out of here!" The movie is visceral with a side of viscera. The Hollywood columnist who wrote that it was too "unflinchingly brutal" for women was justly ridiculed, but he did pick up on something that's there: Watching it is meant to be a test of a certain kind of "manliness."

From *Amores Perros* to last year's award-winning *Birdman*, Iñárritu has labored to prove that he's an artist who *will not flinch*, and now he's into nervy, swervy single takes (or expert simulations thereof) to intensify your fight-or-flight instincts. He has found a hero ripe for mangling in Hugh Glass (Leonardo DiCaprio), a real 19th-century explorer and

trapper who became famous for surviving an 1823 grizzly attack and abandonment by two members of his expedition tasked to stay with him (they had thought he was a goner). Glass staggered 200 miles over six weeks to inform them of their misperception and was evidently pissed off. But Iñárritu ups the vengeance stakes exponentially, piling primal horror upon primal horror. He's out to create a frontier myth of biblical proportions.

The Revenant opens with arty flashbacks to an attack on a Pawnee village, follows with a soupçon of Native American mysticism, and goes in for the kill with an attack on a group of trappers by the Arikara tribe (dubbed the "Ree"). The "one-shot" ballet of butchery begins with an arrow bisecting a man's throat—*thock!*—and then gets more ferocious, the camera spinning, tilting toward treetops, and only just veering clear of arterial spray. This is the sort of sequence in which every time the camera moves close to someone, you mentally pre-

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pare for a projectile to zoom in from off-screen and tear a path through his kidney. It's almost a relief when the Ree get off their horses and start scalping people—at least you get a heads up, so to speak.

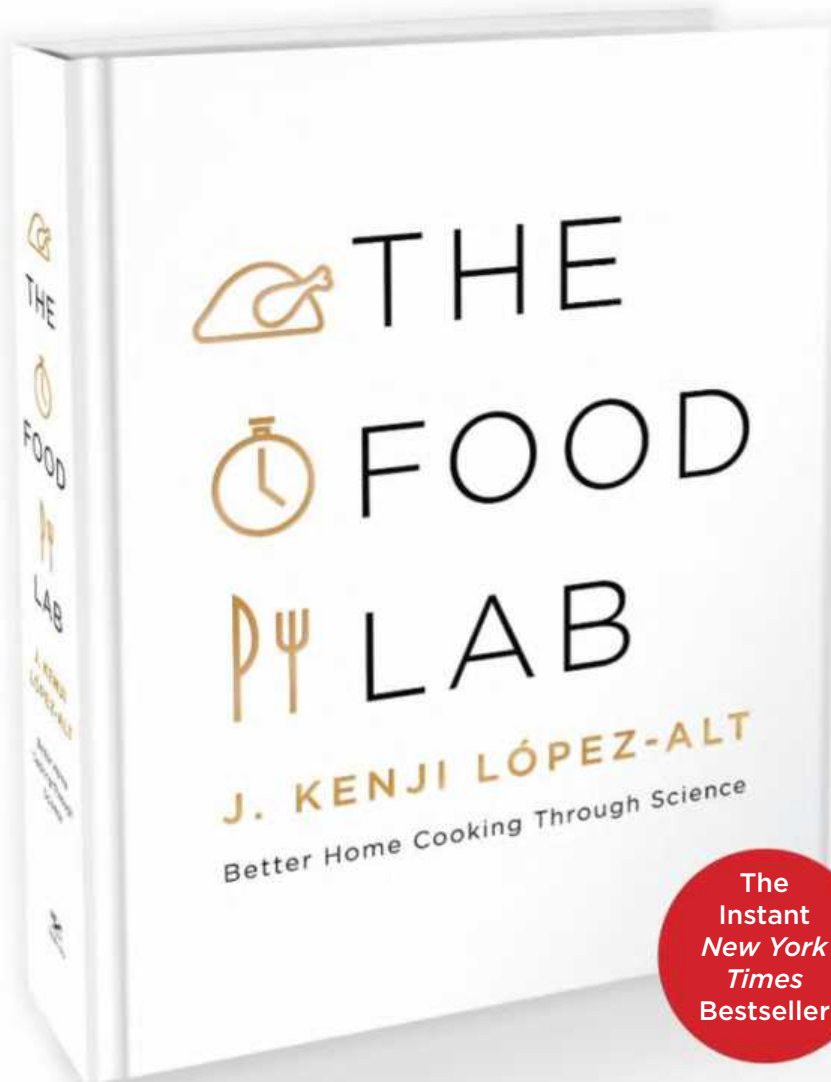
But the movie's showstopper is the "one-shot" mauling of the hero by that mama grizzly, who takes a break to check on her cubs before lumbering back for more ripping and chewing. I've seen thousands of heroes thrown about by thousands of giant monsters, and this throwing-about has no equal. (I don't care how it was done—I'd like to keep it a mystery.) Now the bear is deep in the frame, now so close that her snout mists the lens (nice touch!), her great body rippling with a terrible kind of beauty as she takes her time with her prey—who's busy trying to reach a musket and insert a bullet with bloodied fingers, though you know a single bullet will only make the mammoth creature madder. For *Iñárritu*, editing would offer too much existential relief: You have to live through it in "real time." Every damn second of it.

The bulk of the film features the shattered Glass dragging himself across mile after mile of barren tundra, somehow staying alive despite roaming Ree, freezing temperatures, and his own festering infections, driven by the need for revenge against a trapper named John Fitzgerald (Tom Hardy) who took something precious from him. Just when you think the ordeal can't last much longer, Glass rounds another bend, the gray wilderness stretches into the horizon, and you know you're in for at least five more minutes of Leo lurching and grunting. Then he comes to the next bend. Many artists make a point of compressing time, going from point A to point D to point H while preserving the illusion of fluidity. *Iñárritu* is an A-to-B man.

It should be said that there is more than survival at stake. *Iñárritu* has given his hero a fictional teenage Pawnee son named Hawk (Forrest Goodluck), whose mother was murdered by white soldiers and whose mistreatment at the hands of Fitzgerald Glass is too incapacitated to stop. The bond with Hawk gives Glass a sort of guest-access pass to the Pawnee spirit world, which enables *Iñárritu* to do what he does worst: floating apparitions, messages from beyond, magic realism so clunky that it would embarrass a first-year film student. He's great with the rough textures of the material world; he's far too literal-minded for the higher realm.

In my press notes, *Iñárritu* says, "Glass's story asks the questions: Who are we when we are completely stripped of everything? What are we made of and what are we capable of?" I would answer that some of us are capable of crawling a long way with grievous wounds while others are not. Me, probably

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not. Louis Zamperini from *Unbroken*, certainly. The guy played by James Franco who sawed off his own arm, obviously. Matt Damon "scienc[ing] the shit out of" something on Mars, maybe, with help from the global village on Earth. Glass does some self-surgery (though he doesn't treat himself with maggots, as the real man reportedly did), falls in with a helpful Native American, wanders into a ruined church for the inevitable glimpse of Jesus suffering amid the inhumanity, and shoots some people. But mostly he limps and grunts. Stripped of everything, he's not that *interesting*.

How is DiCaprio? Not much to look at when half-dead but fine when fighting or falling. Hardy's character—he's partially scalped, which helps him justify looking out for No. 1—is more fun, but the actor's face is once again half hidden, this time by a heavy beard, and his usual muddy diction creates a further layer of distance. Will Poulter has a few anguished moments as the young guy forced to watch Fitzgerald throw Glass in a hole, and Domhnall Gleeson supplies some clear-eyed decency as a captain. A subplot that features a Ree warrior searching for his daughter—likely kidnapped by vile French pig-dogs—feels shoehorned in. I won't spoil the climax, although it's spoiled anyway by a bogus, have-it-morally-both-ways vengeance.

I think *The Revenant* is, on the whole, pain without gain, but it's certainly a tour de force—literally, a feat of strength. DiCaprio, Iñárritu, cinematographer Emmanuel "Chivo" Lubekzi, and their collaborators hauled themselves through the Canadian Rockies and deserve what respect one can muster, although their artistry is finite, a test of will and pyrotechnics and, yes, traditional masculinity instead of a search for what illuminates man's inhumanity to man. In some ways, I prefer Quentin Tarantino's gleeful nihilism to Iñárritu's holy splatter—at least Tarantino knows how silly he is.

IN THE RAUCOUS comedy *Joy*, the writer-director David O. Russell breaks with his habit of spreading the love among many characters and actors and concentrates on trying to build a pedestal to his frequent leading lady Jennifer Lawrence. This works well until the pedestal is completed and looks dismayingly like ... a pedestal.

Russell is meant for more ramshackle, precarious structures. As American cinema's foremost poet of disequilibrium, he has a gift for fusing psychodrama and screwball, keeping most of the former's bite while letting the latter dance. At first, *Joy* seems to be the perfect milieu for him. The title character has gone from a young girl whose mind was teeming with ideas for inventions to a bedraggled single mom living with a glazed

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FOR THE *gift*
of life.

The New Tsar

The Rise and
Reign of Vladimir Putin

Steven Lee Myers



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VEIL [ON]
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BRAVE ENOUGH



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FROM
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TO *Readers*
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Jennifer Lawrence in Joy.

mother (Virginia Madsen) who won't leave her bedroom and is glued to a peculiarly repetitious soap opera that's an absurdist cartoon of the movie's main drama. Her ex-husband (Edgar Ramirez) has never moved out—he lives in the basement—and her father (Robert De Niro) moves back in after he's dumped by his second wife. The only balm in her existence is her grandma (Diane Ladd), who narrates the film and longs for Joy to free herself from this domestic morass.

There's a wonderful three-ring-circus quality to life in the house, but it's also corrosive to the soul. It makes Joy forget who she was, who she is. Driven to re-create herself, she devises a mop with a handy squeeze mechanism; pleads (and pleads) for start-up cash from her father's new girlfriend (Isabella Rossellini), a wealthy but irritatingly smug widow; and talks her way into the headquarters of the burgeoning QVC network, persuading a sympathetic (but all business) executive (Bradley Cooper) to give her mop a shot.

Watching Lawrence trip over one obstacle after another and pick herself back up reminds you why she's such a marvelous comic and dramatic actress: She can illuminate the struggle, amid chaos, to cultivate an inner stillness. This makes her the perfect muse for Russell, a director famous for flying off the handle and then ostentatiously meditating—a Buddha with a hair trigger. It's his life quest to find the signal in the noise, but, fortunately for us, the noise holds its own.

Joy finds its rhythm when the desperate Joy becomes the on-air salesperson for her own invention, managing to exploit the brand of capitalism that previously held her back—and loses it shortly thereafter, when the movie becomes the story of all the crooks and parasites who take advantage of or cheat her. It hits its low point in a long scene in which her family (including a shrewishly undermining half-sister) take her apart so relentlessly that they seem demonic. She becomes a fighter—and then a saint of capitalism. I don't think Russell has ever directed a scene as phony as the one in Joy's office where she shows her abiding beneficence to a sweet young African-American couple. Equilibrium makes Russell a dull boy. ■

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Edited by Jennifer Vineyard

25TH ANNUAL IFP GOTHAM AWARDS HOSTED
BY EUPHORIA CALVIN KLEIN
CIPRIANI WALL STREET. NOVEMBER 30.



"We won the ensemble award for Spotlight. Between the 12 of us, I guess we each get it one month a year? No. Let's make it one year per person, in rotation, in perpetuity, until one of us kicks off!"
—Mark Ruffalo

"I wish somebody would offer some creative way of paying me. 'I'm going to give you a boat.' Or a garden statue."
—Matt Dillon

"My paychecks aren't very high right now! Not a sought-after dude! So as payment I would accept 15 burritos per day."
—Jorma Taccone

TANGENT

"What is my philosophy about swearing? I don't like endless swearing, but the reality is, that's the way most of us adults speak. They expect it of Johnny Depp, but people are more shocked because it's me. Well, yeah, I'm not actually the queen."
—Helen Mirren



COCKTAIL RECEPTION FOR WOMAN IN GOLD
HOUSE OF ELYX. DECEMBER 2.

A NIGHT OF MUSIC WITH ONE AND (RED)
CARNEGIE HALL. DECEMBER 1.

"I'm the only one in Carnegie Hall singing about my blowfish and charging her cell phone at the same time."
—Miley Cyrus



PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY OF SARA JAYE WEISS (25TH ANNUAL IFP GOTHAM AWARDS)

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Photo © Shane McCauley



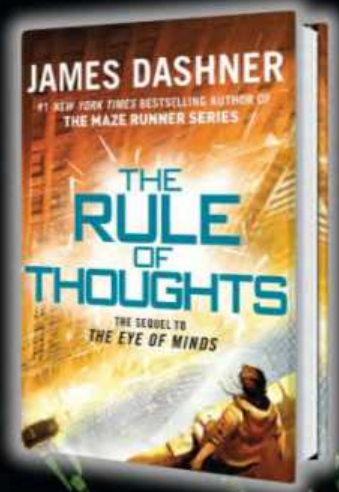
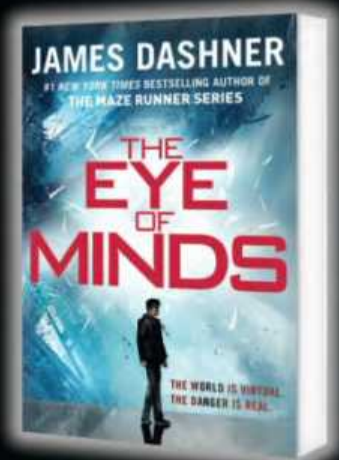
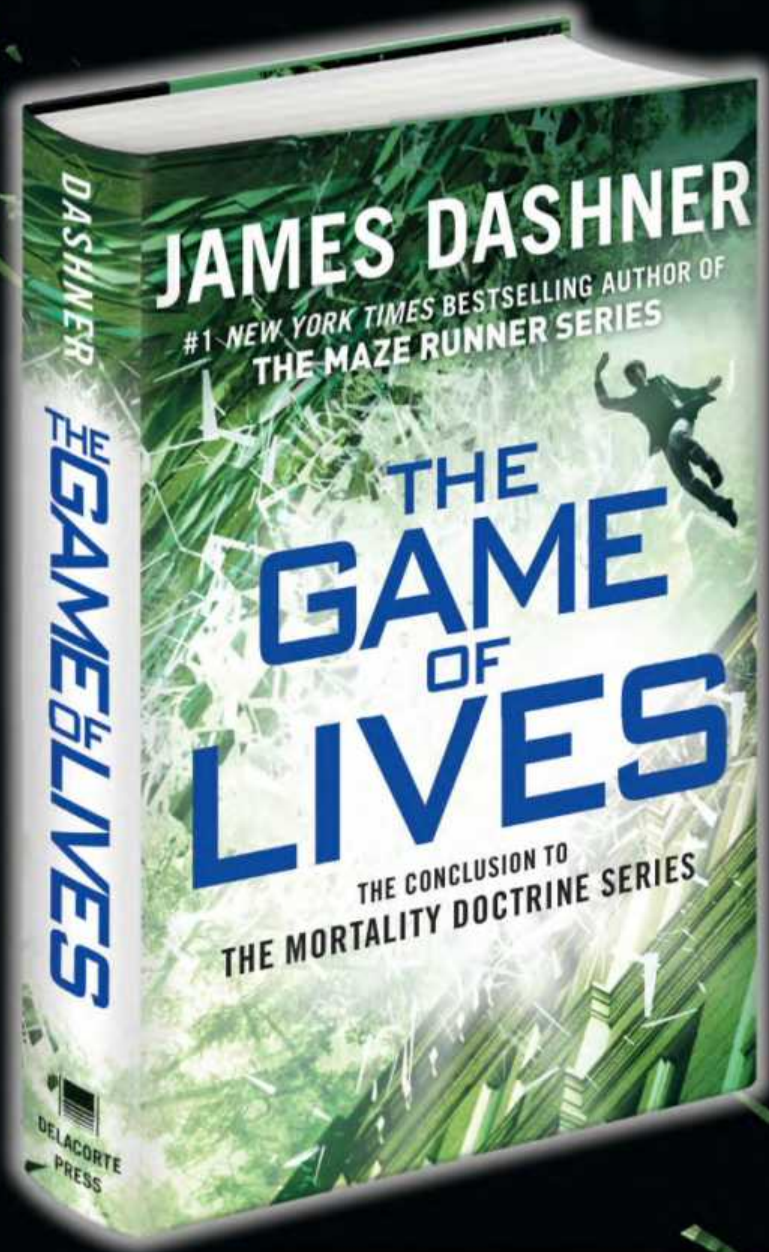
BY

ETHAN HAWKE

Published by Knopf 

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The CULTURE PAGES

To

Do



Twenty-five things to see, hear, watch, and read.

DECEMBER 16-30

TV

1. Watch Luther

Back, just the way you like him.

BBC America, December 17 at 9 p.m.

Idris Elba as James Bond. Idris Elba as Batman. Idris Elba in a silk robe eating pasta and watching *The Price Is Right*. Or how about Idris Elba as Luther, in a one-night special, growling and snarling and exploding and snarking his way through a comic-book-noir universe of vicious criminals whose biggest mistake is underestimating him? Yes, that'll do. **MATT ZOLLER SEITZ**

POP

2. Hear Ronnie Spector

Be her Santa baby.

City Winery, December 22 and 23.

If you've already experienced Mariah in the Beacon (from whom a stellar performance is not exactly a guarantee these days), your next best bet for some big-voiced pop-musical holiday cheer is the one and only Ronnie Spector, who'll be playing selections from her EP *Ronnie Spector's Best Christmas Ever*. **LINDSAY ZOLADZ**

ART

3. See Lucy Dodd's Wuv Shack

Hear the art.

David Lewis Gallery, through December 20.

That force of painterly nature Lucy Dodd continues her tremendous breakout in a show evoking an optical version of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* by way of the shaman's medicine tent. Few artists mingle gesture, chaos, tinctures of color, strange materials like kombucha and hematite, and great scale in such beautifully operatic ways. **JERRY SALTZ**

MOVIES

4. See The Hateful Eight

Slinging guns and dialogue.

In theaters December 25.

An embargo on reviews prevents a judgment here of *Quentin Tarantino's Eighth Film The Hateful Eight* (as it's identified onscreen). But we can say it's a sort of chamber Western in which the first two hours are a series of garrulous but freighted exchanges leading to a third hour of splattered brains, blown-off testicles, and so much more. A ticket will be the perfect gift for your favorite psychopath.

DAVID EDELSTEIN

THEATER

5. See Piaf: A Centennial Celebration

The Little Sparrow takes flight again.

Town Hall, December 19.

A parade of divas gather to celebrate the proto-diva on her 100th birthday, singing songs she popularized, exemplified, or inspired. Expect Elaine Paige to regret nothing, Marilyn Maye to love Paris, and surely someone to see life in shades of pink. The American Pops Orchestra accompanies; Robert Osborne hosts. **JESSE GREEN**

BOOKS

6. Read Christopher Buckley's The Relic Master

Holy Roman high jinks!

Simon & Schuster.

Perhaps acknowledging that our politics have rendered Washington satire obsolete, the arch humorist tilts his lance at the high corruption of the latter



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

FRED HERSCH

fred hersch & friends: intimate moments

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FILM

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SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLE



days of the Holy Roman Empire. Sixteenth-century hustler Dismas traffics in mostly fake holy relics. After a client catches him in an underhanded ruse, he and his buddy Albrecht Dürer are induced to try stealing the shroud of Turin; *Ocean's*-style capers and *Spamalot* slapstick ensue. **BORIS KACHKA**

AFTER THE MUSIC:

ADELE'S '25'

Adele's new album draws from a deep well of unexpected influences. When you need to escape its earworms, move on to these.

IF YOU LOVE	THEN LISTEN TO	AND HERE'S WHY
"Million Years Ago"	Jacques Brel, Amsterdam: The Best of Jacques Brel	You'll hear the same kind of downwardly spiraling, shrugged melody Brel adored (cf. "Ne Me Quitte Pas" or "Amsterdam").
"All I Ask"	Harry Nilsson, "Without You"	She's given a melodic face lift to the chorus of Nilsson's emotional steamroller of a cover, a benchmark for all power ballads.
"River Lea"	Stevie Nicks, "Edge of Seventeen"	Similarly draws on nature as a metaphor for emotions, with a very Adele-esque primal, raw vocal performance.
"Why Do You Love Me"	Belinda Carlisle, "Heaven Is a Place on Earth"	Grammy winning songwriter Rick Nowels co wrote this bonus track for Adele, and also worked on Carlisle's bubbly classic.

CABARET

7. Hear Norm Lewis

A finger-snappin' good time.

Feinstein's/54Below, December 20 through 24.

Lewis's caramel baritone and onstage gravitas make him a magnet for tragic roles (the Phantom, Porgy), but he'll step lighter in this swingy show, singing his way through Christmas classics, duets with surprise guests—and, yes, "Bring Him Home" from Les Miz.

POP

8. Listen to Free TC

Ty Dolla \$ign's debut.

Atlantic.

An unctuous R&B record as well suited to the club as it is to the bedroom afterward, *Free TC* features some heavy guest hitters (E-40, Rae Sremmurd, and Future, among others), but Ty Dolla \$ign manages to outshine his collaborators with his signature Auto-Tune-enhanced vocals.

DANCE

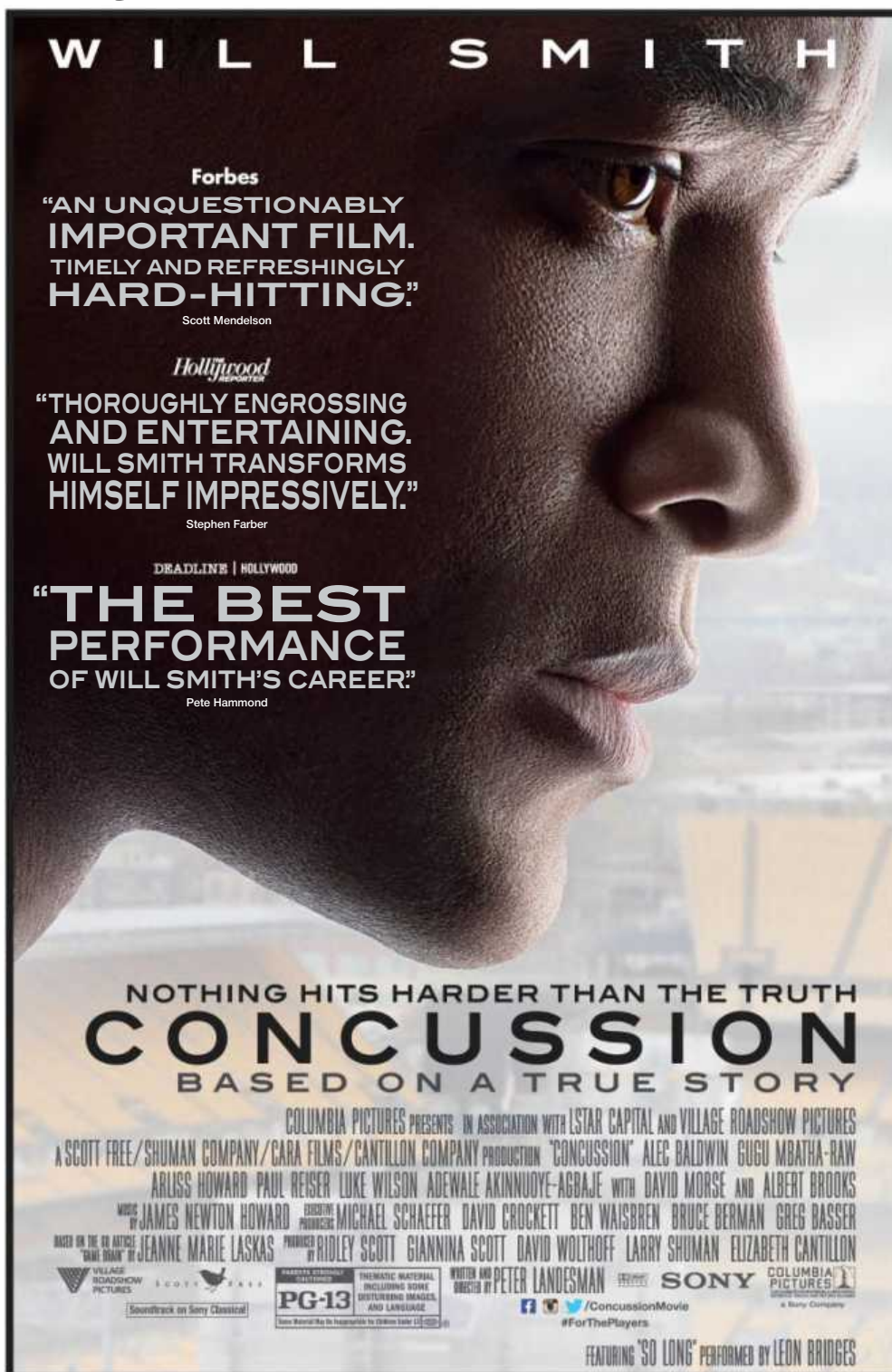
9. See George Balanchine's The Nutcracker

Unbreakable.

David H. Koch Theater, through January 3.

With each passing year, new layers of Balanchine's choreography and indelible character-

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Monday, December 21 in a Manhattan theater

The first 50 readers to go to www.sony screenings.com and enter the code nymagconcussion will receive screening passes.

No purchase necessary. Passes are not transferable. Entry is granted on a first-come, first-served basis. Must be 18 years or older. Theater capacity is limited and pass does not guarantee admittance to screening. Theater is not responsible for overbooking. The screening will be monitored for unauthorized recording. NYMAG is not the sponsor of the screening pass giveaway.

'CONCUSSION' OPENS EVERYWHERE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

izations are revealed through City Ballet's casting. This season, look for Lauren Lovette's return after surgery (her performances as Sugarplum are her first as a principal dancer), Ashley Laracey and Anthony Huxley (as Coffee and the Cavalier), and glamorous corps member Ashly Isaacs debuting as Sugarplum. **REBECCA MILZOFF**

CLASSICAL MUSIC

10. See and Hear The Carnival of the Animals

A wild rumpus.

MillerTheatre, December 19.

Saint-Saëns's playful score, with its preening swans, braying asses, and heavy-pawed pachyderms, has always been a children's delight, especially when accompanied by Ogden Nash's verse interpolations. Miller Theatre puts it on the stage with puppetry and dance, plus a few musical extras. **JUSTIN DAVIDSON**

BOOKS

11. Read Sara Benincasa's DC Trip

That one time at the Washington Monument ...

Adaptive Books.

Remember when your class schlepped to Our Nation's Capital? The on-the-bus interpersonal drama, the contraband booze, the teachers who had a weird thing of their own going? It's all here, delivered by a funny, prolific author-comic

whom you ought to be following on Twitter. Best to screen this YA novel before giving it to anyone really Y; as in real life, what happens in Washington is pretty filthy.

PODCASTS

12. Listen to Anna Faris Is Unqualified

Instantly addictive.

iTunes.

The unendingly charming actress's new podcast is a "Loveline" for a more evolved generation; Faris and guests (like Rosie O'Donnell and Allison Janney) answer listener questions ("Should I date a musician?"; "Why are all the guys at Sarah Lawrence 'soft boys'?") and discuss their romantic lives. Start with the surprisingly moving episode with *Silicon Valley*'s T.J. Miller and his wife, Kate.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

13.-15. Hear Handel's Messiah Three Ways

Many, many voices singing hallelujah.

Alice Tully Hall, December 17 (Trinity Wall Street); Carnegie Hall, December 21 (the Oratorio Society); David Geffen Hall, December 15 through 19 (New York Philharmonic).

Never mind that it was written for Easter: 'Tis the season for "Hallelujah" addicts, with three variant performances worth seeking out. The forces of Trinity Wall Street merges high drama

with historical scrupulousness. As orchestras swelled after Handel's death, his original was found puny and pallid, so Mozart jazzed it up for late-18th-century tastes; the Oratorio Society is reviving that once-modern rewrite. And the New York Philharmonic looks to balance the big and the accurate in a performance conducted by the Baroque specialist Jane Glover. **J.D.**

ART

16. See Cynthia Daignault's Light Atlas

Creating her own map.

Lisa Cooley, through December 20.

Last year, Daignault took a 30,000-mile trip through the back rooms of America, stopping for a picture every 25 miles. Her show of 360 little paintings is a wonderfully obsessive, possessed chronicle of that journey. **J.S.**

THEATER/BOOKS

17. Read Ethan Mordden's On Sondheim

Refinishing the hat.

Oxford University Press.

Is there more to write about King Steve? There is: In a corrective to the all-facts, no-insight standard biography by Meryle Secrest, Mordden offers a highly idiosyncratic, big-picture, and completely delicious portrait of Sondheim, show by show, as one of the 20th (and 21st?) century's greatest artists. **J.G.**

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EVENT

Syfy and Vulture Team Up for an Exclusive Screening of *Childhood's End*

On November 18, Syfy and Vulture held an exclusive screening of *Childhood's End* followed by a Q&A panel featuring stars Mike Vogel, Daisy Betts, and Yael Stone and moderated by Vulture's Abraham Riesman. Tune in for the special three-night event starting December 14 at 8/7c on Syfy.

► Watch a sneak peek now at syfy.com/childhoodsend



EVENT

New York + The Eight Senses Showcase Party

On November 17, The Eight Senses and *New York* co-hosted a showcase event for the new fashion brand. Guests enjoyed a DIY cocktail bar as well as sensory experiences, including an inspiration wall and meditation room, while they shopped and listened to tunes by DJ Franco V. The pop-up shop located at 120 Wooster is open through December 31.

► TheEightSenses.com

The Eight Senses



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POP

18. **Hear** Squeeze

East Side Story, in *Times Square*.

PlayStation Theater, December 17 and 18.

Chris Difford and Glenn Tilbrook, the co-front men of the British New Wave band, have been playing all-acoustic sets as a part of their cheekily titled "The At Odds Couple Tour." What does "Tempted" sound like without that organ? L.Z.

TV

19. **Watch** The Andy Griffith Show Christmas Special

Out of black-and-white.

CBS, December 25 at 8 p.m.

The surprise ratings success of colorized *I Love Lucy* episodes prompted CBS to try the same with *The Andy Griffith Show*. The producers here have gone to great lengths to match the hues to those of the show's latter-day color episodes, and it's a treat to see Andy, Opie, Aunt Bee, Barney, and the rest showcased in prime time again. M.Z.S.

MOVIES/NEW MUSIC

20. **See** Youth

And listen up.

In theaters.

Paolo Sorrentino's drama *Youth* is, for better or worse, all over the place, but the better part is the soundtrack and the work of "post-minimalist" (and sometime art-rock) composer David Lang. Among the treasures is the Trio Medieval's recording of the incantatory but insinuatingly melodic "Just," in which life's rich pageant is distilled into a series of sacred objects. It's so nice—and necessary, given the film's cool tone—that it's played twice. D.E.

ART

21. **See** Berg Matthams Self & Weaver

A taste of good things to come.

Thierry Goldberg Gallery, through January 17.

The three women in this group show look pretty promising. Tatiana Berg channels her inner Matisse in stained colorful painting; Grace Weaver really gets weird realism; and Tschabalala Self looks fabulous with constructed collages of cut-up canvas that toggle between abstraction, abjection, joy, and mythic figuration. J.S.

BOOKS

22. **Read** Kara Platoni's We Have the Technology

The humans behind the gizmos.

Basic.

Eschewing both the glib hyperbole of techno-futurists and the finger-wagging of neo-Luddites, Platoni takes her notebook on a whistle-stop tour of sensory pioneers: AI developers, VR engineers, pain analysts, flavor enhancers, and even a few people who really are making the world a better place. Her focus on the senses raises smart ques-

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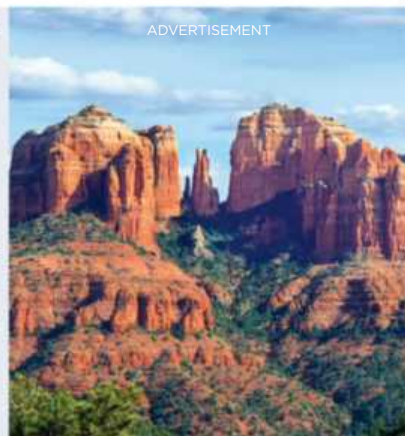
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POP

23. Listen to But U Caint Use My Phone

Erykah Badu has your number.

Streaming.

Snippets of the Isley Brothers, New Edition, and some of Badu's classics float weightlessly through the cosmos of this new mixtape, a meditation on communication, technology, and human connection. On the sparse "Phone Down," Badu delivers one of the simplest, most seductive lyrics of this year of perpetual distraction: "I can make you put your phone down." L.Z.



TAKE IT FROM: SHONDA RHIMES

In Year of Yes (Simon & Schuster), the powerhouse showrunner delivers Olivia Pope worthy truths about finding your inner gladiator, just in time for New Year's resolutions.

Maybe you know exactly what you dream of being. Or maybe you're paralyzed because you have no idea what your passion is. The truth is, it doesn't matter. You don't have to know. You just have to keep **moving forward**. You just have to keep doing something, seizing the next **opportunity**, staying open to trying something new. It doesn't have to fit your vision of the perfect job or the perfect life. Perfect is boring and dreams are not real. Just ... **DO**. You think, "I wish I could travel"—you sell your crappy car and buy a ticket to Bangkok right now. I'm serious. You say, "I want to be a writer"—guess what? A writer is someone who writes every day. Start writing. Or: You don't have a job? Get one. ANY JOB. Don't sit at home waiting for the magical dream opportunity. Who are you? Prince William? No. Get a job. Work. Do until you can do something else.

THEATER/DANCE

24. See Maurice Hines Tappin' Through Life

Hot feet.

New World Stages, previews begin December 23.

Maurice Hines is one of the last Golden Age hoofers still standing *and* dancing. In his new show, a tap biography accompanied by the 20-something Manzari brothers and the Diva Jazz orchestra, the 72-year-old not only reminisces but swings and shuffles and buffaloes like there's no tomorrow. J.D.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

25. Go to Winterreise Festival

A lonely traveler gets some new company.

National Sawdust, December 17.

A pre-winter winter-themed festival culminates with a free-wheeling rewrite of Schubert's classic song cycle, *Winter's Journey*, conceived and performed by singer Theo Bleckmann and pianist-composer Uri Caine. There will be toys, Yiddish, and strange sounds. J.D.

ILLUSTRATION BY MURPHY LIPPINCOTT

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**NEW YORK
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JOSEPH TACOPINA
POWERHOUSE CRIMINAL
DEFENSE ATTORNEY

PAGE 7



**KOSKOFF,
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PAGE 9, 43



JASON P. SULTZER
COMPLEX LITIGATION
AND TRIAL LEADER

PAGE 11



**LYNCH, LYNCH, HELD
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PAGE 13



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MORELLI LAW FIRM

PERSONAL INJURY, DISCRIMINATION, CIVIL LITIGATION AND MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

WHEN IT COMES TO HIGH-STAKES LITIGATION, preeminent trial lawyer Benedict Morelli has a proven track record of success—including a history of precedent-setting verdicts—across a wide array of practice areas.

"WE REALLY TRY TO STAY AHEAD OF THE CURVE in terms of handling new cases and helping people in different areas," Morelli says. "The diversity in our practice is unique for a firm of our size, but it's possible because we have a level of experience in the courtroom that many other law firms just don't have—it's a major advantage, and the reason we can litigate important cases against substantial opponents and win."

OVER ITS HISTORY, MORELLI LAW FIRM HAS handled many high-profile cases, representing victims of negligence, discrimination, and harassment against some of the largest law firms and corporations in the world. The firm's matters have ranged from cases of workplace sexual harassment to catastrophic personal injury to defective drugs and medical devices, and the firm is constantly expanding into new fields.

"THIS FIRM WAS FOUNDED TO REPRESENT people in need of a voice, and instead of just staying the same and handling one type of case, we've made a point of moving into new areas where we can deliver on our original mission," Morelli says.

MOST RECENTLY, THE FIRM REPRESENTED actor and comedian Tracy Morgan and five others in their lawsuit against Wal-Mart over a New Jersey highway crash that killed one man and left Morgan and two others seriously injured. The case resolved in a confidential settlement in May 2015, just ten months after the initial filing, and Morelli notes that the result has since brought a measure of closure to the tragedy.

"THIS WAS A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT WHERE a Wal-Mart tractor-trailer rear-ended Tracy and his group's limousine van, flipping the van and leaving Tracy close to death. He fought hard to recover though, and it helps that with this settlement, Wal-Mart has taken responsibility for the crash."

AMONG ITS OTHER RECENT VICTORIES, MORELLI Law Firm has secured a number of significant verdicts, including an award of \$62 million in December 2014 for a 26-year-old Chinese construction worker, who was injured on the job after falling 20 feet from a roof while installing metal siding. The result, which followed a six-month trial, is believed to be the largest personal injury verdict for a single plaintiff in the history of the Queens County Supreme Court.

IN ANOTHER HIGH-PROFILE CASE, the firm obtained an \$18 million jury verdict in June 2015 for a young woman against her boss, a Wall Street CEO, in a sexual harassment, retaliation, and defamation lawsuit.

As part of the verdict, the jury awarded the firm's client \$2 million in compensatory damages to account for her emotional injuries and the damage to her reputation, and \$16 million in punitive damages.

"TRYING CASES HAS BECOME a lost art because our world is based more on mediation and arbitration than litigation," Morelli notes. "But our firm was established to handle cases from start to finish, and as these results prove, our trial experience has allowed us to help many victims of corporate America's negligence, misfeasance, and malfeasance."

THE FIRM, WHICH HANDLES MASS TORTS, class actions, and individual cases in jurisdictions across the country, is currently serving in a leadership role in a number of large-scale pharmaceutical cases, including litigation against the manufacturers of testosterone replacement therapy medication and the drug Propecia, which the FDA approved to treat male pattern hair loss. Morelli Law Firm is also representing numerous catastrophically injured clients in the multidistrict litigation over the May 2015 Amtrak crash, where eight people died and more than 200 suffered injuries after a train derailed during its route from Washington, D.C. to New York.

"THE AMTRAK CASE PRESENTS UNIQUE issues because in 1997 Congress imposed a statutory ceiling that caps damages at \$200 million, and with more than 200 people affected by the crash, that amount will not fully compensate every single one of the plaintiffs," Morelli says. "So we've been leading the charge to get that case resolved and help raise the arbitrary and unjust cap."

BEYOND ITS MASS TORTS PRACTICE, Morelli Law Firm continues to represent individuals in high-profile personal injury cases: The firm is currently representing women's professional tennis player Eugenie Bouchard—who was ranked top five in the world in 2014—in her lawsuit against the United States Tennis Association and National Tennis Center over a head injury she sustained from a fall during the 2015 U.S. Open, which occurred in the center's physiotherapy room. Bouchard was forced to withdraw from the tournament following the injury, and has been unable to play in the numerous subsequent tournaments. The Defendants' negligence has put her in jeopardy of losing significant earnings, including earnings from her various endorsements such as Nike, Rolex and Coca Cola.

"WE'RE NOT A RUN-OF-THE-MILL FIRM where we do the same medical malpractice cases and the same personal injury cases," Morelli observes. "Many of the matters that come to us are high-value, prominent cases, and that's because we offer the expertise and experience of a larger law firm in a smaller environment that ensures each case receives our full attention."



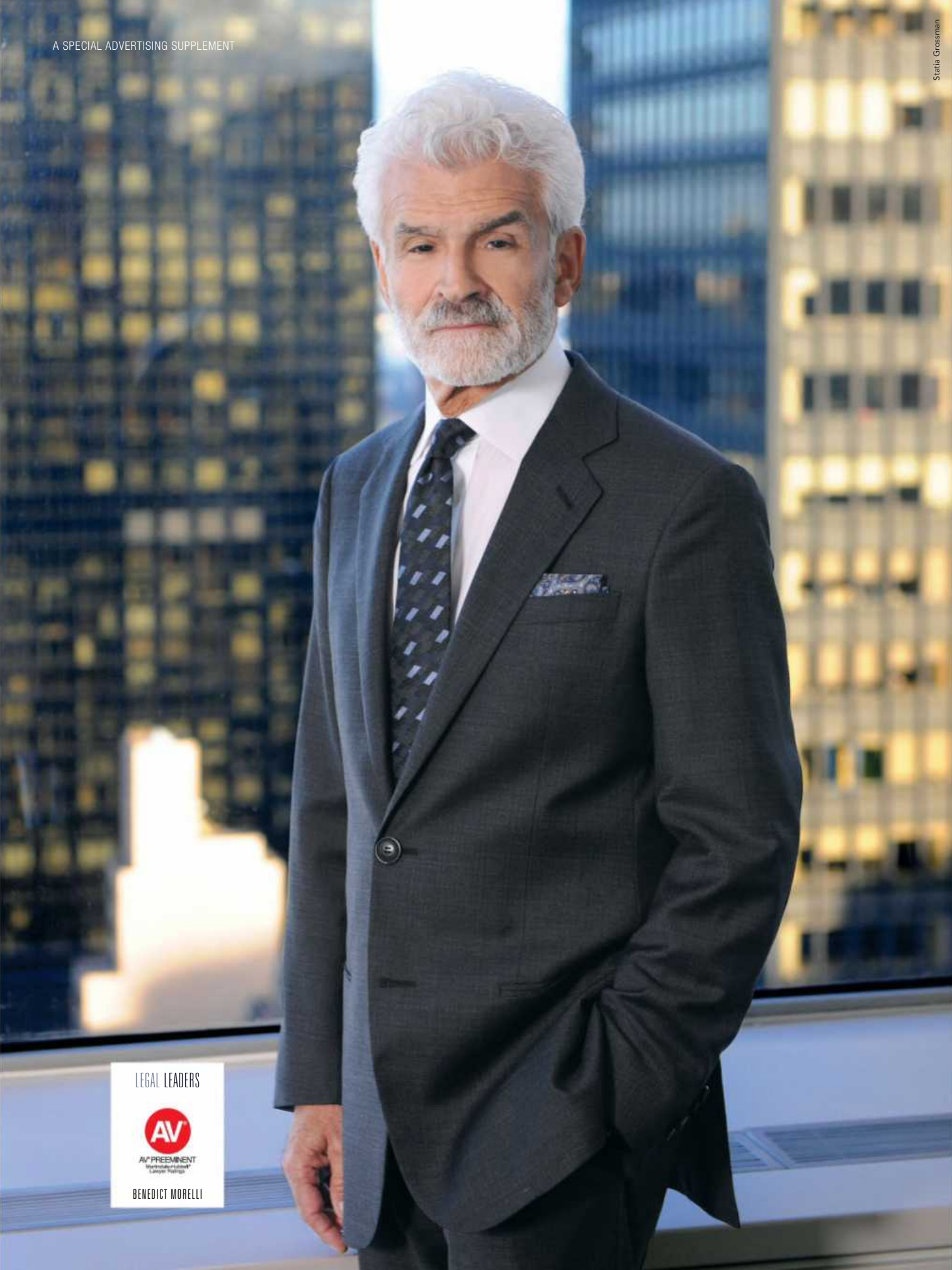
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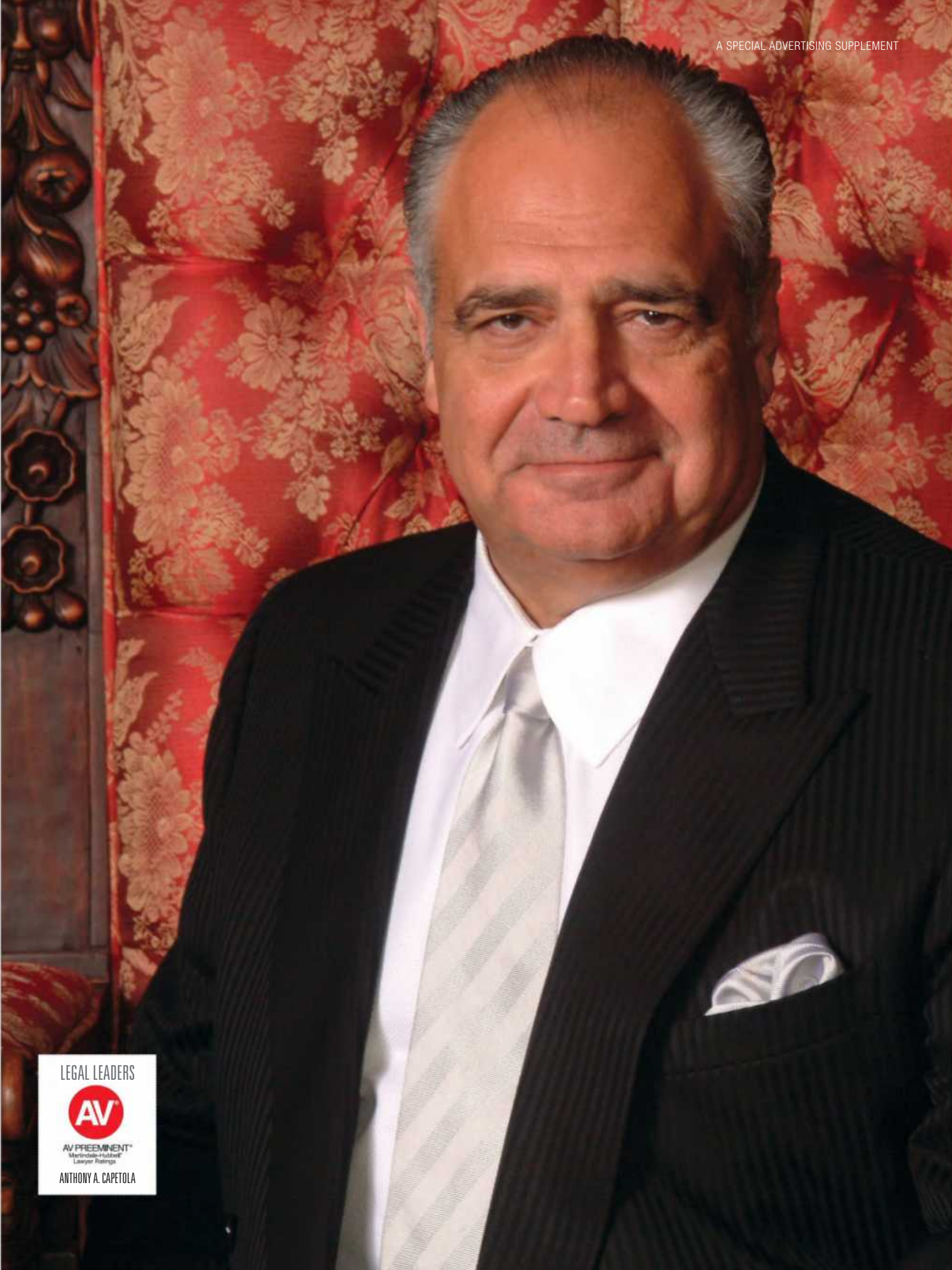
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ANTHONY A. CAPEOLA

LAW OFFICES OF ANTHONY A. CAPETOLA

CHILD CUSTODY, CRIMINAL, FAMILY

THE LAW OFFICES OF ANTHONY A. CAPETOLA IS ONE OF THE PREMIER firms in Long Island and New York City for family law, corporate law, civil litigation, and criminal defense. Led by experienced trial attorney Anthony A. Capetola, the firm provides clients with committed service and skilled crisis management.

"CLIENTS KNOW THAT THEY CAN RELY UPON US TO ACHIEVE THE BEST possible results," says Capetola. "A former client recently emailed me saying, 'I wanted to express my deep thanks to you and your office for providing me with such great service. I experienced great professionalism, smart decisions, respect and great service from each and every colleague of yours.' That's the result we strive for with each and every client."

WITH MORE THAN 40 YEARS OF TRIAL EXPERIENCE, MR. CAPETOLA focused his practice on matrimonial law since 1985. Along with his associates, he has been recognized as being among the finest family law practitioners in Nassau, Suffolk, and New York Counties, and is often sought out to handle complex custody and visitation matters, having tried international custody cases pursuant to the Hague Convention.

"I HAVE TRIED HUNDREDS OF CASES, AS AN ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR and in private practice. No challenge is too great, we cannot be intimidated and we often shine when the odds are against us," says Capetola.

IN PRAISING ANTHONY CAPETOLA FOR HIS SUPERIOR LEGAL PROWESS, a New York Supreme Court justice recently stated: "The plaintiff's attorney, Anthony Capetola, Esq. represented his client with skill and professionalism. Mr. Capetola is a practiced and competent attorney. He is one of the principals in a highly respected law firm and appears on matrimonial cases on behalf of the firm's clients on a regular basis. He has successfully tried or negotiated numerous cases before this Court. He enjoys a superior reputation in the legal community in the area of matrimonial law."

MORE THAN JUST A LITIGATOR, CAPETOLA IS HIGHLY SOUGHT AFTER to share his knowledge with others, having lectured extensively at various law schools and bar associations. He is a member of the Nassau County, New York State, and American Bar Associations. He has been included in Super Lawyers since 2010, and recognized as one of the area's top matrimonial attorneys by Long Island Pulse Magazine.

IN ADDITION TO RUNNING A SUCCESSFUL LAW PRACTICE, Mr. Capetola has also achieved recognition as a boxing promoter, real estate developer, restaurateur and community activist. When not engaged in the practice of law, he can often be found at The Carltun, a high-end Long Island restaurant and catering facility that he opened in 1995.

"BEING A SEASONED ENTREPRENEUR, IT'S SECOND NATURE TO ME TO weigh all potential benefits when deciding which course of action to take in a litigation. Recognizing that our actions are likely to have a lasting impact on a client's life well beyond whether they win or lose their case, our approach is more of a holistic one," he says. "We seek to situate clients on a path that will yield long-term benefits for them once we are no longer representing them."

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Welcome to *New York Area's Top Rated Lawyers of 2015*, a publication featuring legal talent from New York and the Tri-State area.

The attorneys featured here and in the accompanying online edition have all achieved the peer reviewed rating of AV Preeminent[®] by Martindale-Hubbell[®], the company that has long set the standard for lawyer ratings. The AV Preeminent[®] rating is a significant accomplishment and demonstrates that a lawyer's peers have ranked him or her at the highest level of professional excellence.

Our online edition of *New York Area's Top Rated Lawyers*, accessible at at.law.com/NewYorktoprated, includes the complete directory of all of the New York area's AV Preeminent[®] rated attorneys, listed by their practice areas.

In addition to insightful profiles of many Top Rated attorneys, this publication features articles covering trends in the law, and is a valuable resource for finding top legal talent and making more informed decisions.

Sincerely,

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TACOPINA & SEIGEL

CRIMINAL, CIVIL LITIGATION, CORPORATE

FEW LAWYERS HAVE RECEIVED

the level of national acclaim that trial attorney Joseph Tacopina has garnered from media outlets during his career.

THE NEW YORK POST

identified Tacopina as a “top-shelf, high-powered litigator”; *GQ* Magazine called him “the best-dressed, smoothest-talking, hardest-working criminal defense attorney going”; Fox’s Sean Hannity described him as “one of the greatest defense attorneys of all time”; and *The New York Times* even noted, “Mr. Tacopina is to the defense bar what Donald Trump is to real estate.”

HIGH PRAISE, BUT WITH GOOD REASON: OVER HIS more than two decades in practice, Tacopina has thrived in the courtroom, trying nearly 100 cases to verdict and representing many high-profile defendants.

“FROM THE BEGINNING I GRAVITATED TOWARD trial work because of what comes with the territory—high stakes and a lot of pressure,” says Tacopina, who focuses on criminal defense and civil litigation. “The work is challenging, but there’s nothing more satisfying to me than having a jury come back in my client’s favor.”

SOME OF TACOPINA’S MOST WELL-KNOWN CASES include representing former New York State Senator Hiram Monserrate, who was acquitted of assaulting his girlfriend. He also achieved an acquittal for a former NYPD officer accused of rape and burglary in a case that garnered international media attention.

“THERE’S A CERTAIN ADDED PRESSURE WHEN you’re handling high-profile matters, but ultimately all the work I do is difficult,” Tacopina says. “With these cases, you have someone’s life in your hands, so you have to be strategic, creative, and thoughtful in how you approach them.”

AMONG HIS MORE RECENT CASES, TACOPINA represented Yankees star Alex Rodriguez in his appeal of a 211-game suspension imposed by Major League Baseball for allegedly using performance-enhancing drugs. He is currently representing award-winning reporter Sarah Wallace in her gender discrimination lawsuit against New York’s WABC, and he is also being retained by the Italian government to investigate the wrongful murder conviction of Italian citizen Enrico Forti in Miami.



LEGAL LEADERS



AV PREEMINENT
Martindale-Hubbell®
Lawyer Rating

JOSEPH TACOPINA

“THE CLIENTS I REPRESENT ARE

often under siege when they come to me, and because I take personally anything that has been done unfairly to them, I fight for them with everything I have,” Tacopina says. “Simply put, whether I’m representing someone in a civil or a criminal case, my goal is to always work harder than anyone else.”

THAT PHILOSOPHY HAS BEEN TACOPINA’S

personal credo since his early days as a prosecutor in the Kings County District Attorney’s Office, where he prevailed in 39 of 40 trials. By making it a mainstay of his private practice, he has been able to elevate his firm to a new level in the criminal defense field, earning a number of prestigious awards.

HIS ACCOLADES INCLUDE AN AV PREEMINENT® rating from Martindale-Hubbell® (the organization’s highest rating for legal ability and ethical standards) and the National Italian American Bar Association’s Man of the Year Award, which was presented to Justice Anthony Scalia the year prior. Additionally, Tacopina has been accepted to The National Trial Lawyers: Top 100 Trial Lawyers, an invitation-only organization comprising the top trial lawyers from each state.

AS DON IMUS, WHO TACOPINA HAS COUNSELED

on legal matters, observed on his radio show, “Imus in the Morning”: “When you hire Joe Tacopina—it’s over.”

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WHEN YOU'VE BEEN INJURED AT SEA



If you've been injured at sea or on the water while working for your employer, you may have to file a claim under the Jones Act and general maritime law to be paid for your injuries. Unlike injuries on land, most injuries at sea or on the water aren't covered by state workers' compensation laws unless the injury occurs within the territorial waters of a state.

WHO IS A "SEAMAN" UNDER THE JONES ACT AND GENERAL MARITIME LAW?

To qualify for coverage under the Jones Act, you must meet the following test:

- The vessel that you were injured on must be "in navigation" at sea or in a body of water that is connected to interstate or international commerce.
- You must spend a substantial part of your work time on board the vessel.
- You must contribute to the work of the vessel.

A variety of workers may qualify for coverage under the Jones Act, including:

- Fishermen
- Fish processors
- Tug boat workers
- Barge workers
- Cruise ship workers
- Ferry boat workers
- River boat workers
- Construction workers who work on vessels or barges
- Oil platform workers
- Commercial divers

HOW DO I ESTABLISH A MARITIME INJURY CASE?

You're entitled to compensation if an unseaworthy condition on board the vessel caused your injury. A condition is "unseaworthy" if the vessel, the crew, or

the vessel's appliances are not "reasonably fit" for their intended purpose. This can occur if:

- A piece of equipment is defective.
- The crew is inadequately trained.
- The number of persons assigned to complete a task is inadequate.
- A condition onboard the vessel is unsafe.

You can also establish a case if you can show that your employer was negligent in causing the injury. Only "slight negligence" is required under the Jones Act. You can show negligence in a variety of ways, including:

- Not following a safety statute.
- Not providing adequate equipment for a job.
- Engaging in a dangerous or unsafe method of work.
- Failure to provide adequate medical treatment after an injury.
- Failure to require the use of safety gear.
- Failure to correct an unsafe condition.

WHAT COMPENSATION MAY I COLLECT?

You're entitled to what's called "maintenance, cure, and unearned wages" if your disability or injury occurred, was aggravated or manifested itself while you were in service of the vessel. A showing of negligence or unseaworthiness isn't required.

"Maintenance" is the reasonable amount required to cover your expenses in obtaining room and board ashore after an injury. Sometimes the amount an employer will pay for maintenance is set forth in the seaman's employment contract.

"Cure" is the cost of obtaining reasonable medical treatment for an

injury. Your employer's obligation to pay maintenance and cure begins when you leave the vessel to recuperate and ends when your condition won't improve with additional medical treatment. This is sometime called the point of "maximum cure."

"Unearned wages" are wages that you would have earned until the end of the voyage but for your injury. An employer must pay your unearned wages until the end of the voyage.

You're entitled to past and future lost wages caused by an unseaworthy condition or the negligence of your employer under the Jones Act and general maritime law. If you can't return to work at sea and accept a lower paying job on shore, you're entitled to the past and future loss of earning capacity caused by the injury. A seaman may collect general damages for pain and suffering, disfigurement, disability, and loss of enjoyment of life, under both the Jones Act and general maritime law.

Contact a maritime lawyer for your concerns or questions.

QUESTION FOR YOUR ATTORNEY

- How can I best define an unsafe condition?
- Is psychological damage considered as an injury?
- Who's liable if food and drinks are tainted due to hazardous conditions?

AS SEEN ON



KOSKOFF, KOSKOFF & BIEDER, PC

CIVIL LITIGATION, PERSONAL INJURY, MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS, CIVIL RIGHTS



Stasia Groseman

LEGAL LEADERS



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AN INSTITUTION AMONG CONNECTICUT TRIAL FIRMS, KOSKOFF, KOSKOFF & BIEDER HAS BEEN SERVING the public for nearly 80 years and includes some of the top-rated lawyers in the nation on its roster.

NOT ONLY IS THE FIRM RANKED TIER 1 REGIONALLY for four different practice areas by *U.S. News - Best Lawyers* "Best Law Firms," but a majority of its attorneys are included in *The Best Lawyers in America* and *Super Lawyers* and have been AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell®, the organization's highest rating for legal ability and ethical standards.

ABOVE ALL, THE FIRM IS KNOWN FOR HANDLING some of the most complex cases in the country, having secured six of the 10 largest personal injury verdicts in Connecticut history, including the largest medical malpractice verdict in the state. In addition, Koskoff is widely recognized for its experience in such areas as products liability, civil rights, financial scams, and commercial fraud.

"WE HAVE GROWN TO BECOME ONE OF THE country's leading plaintiffs' firms by continuing to honor the legacy of our founder, Theodore I. 'Ted' Koskoff," explains managing partner Jim Horwitz. "Ted recognized early on that there was a need among plaintiffs for skilled trial lawyers, and because of that, the firm has remained at the forefront of trial law, with many of our lawyers serving as teachers in the field."

TED KOSKOFF WAS HIMSELF PASSIONATE ABOUT training other lawyers, serving as president of the American Association for Justice (AAJ) and as chair and founder of the National Board of Trial Advocacy. His influence at the firm

shows in the number of attorneys who serve as leaders in prominent organizations.

FOR EXAMPLE, AMONG THE MANY POSITIONS HELD by the firm's members, Michael Koskoff is a past president and serves on the board of directors of the Inner Circle of Advocates, an organization that limits its membership to the top 100 plaintiffs' trial lawyers in the country; Kathleen Natri is the current treasurer of the AAJ; and Horwitz is the current vice president of the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association.

"WE'RE FORTUNATE TO HAVE MANY ACCOMPLISHED lawyers at the firm," Natri says, "and it's for that reason that attorneys from across the country refer cases to us."

BEYOND SERVING AS LEADERS IN LOCAL AND national legal associations, Koskoff lawyers also have a long tradition of community involvement, with the firm's members volunteering for and making substantial contributions to such organizations as Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the Brain Injury Association of Connecticut, among many others.

"IT'S ABSOLUTELY THE CULTURE OF OUR FIRM TO try and figure out ways to do right by the community," notes Christopher Bernard. To that end, the firm is particularly proud of Richard Bieder's work following the September 11th attacks in setting up the organization Trial Lawyers Care, which organized a group of more than 1,100 attorneys to provide free legal help to the families of 9/11 victims.

"CONTRIBUTING TO SOCIETY IS PART OF OUR FIRM'S CREDO, and we recognize that there are many paths to accomplishing that goal," Bernard adds.

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FILING A TOXIC MOLD LAWSUIT

Finding toxic mold in your home may lead to a lawsuit, especially if clean up wasn't done properly, or in a timely basis by licensed professionals. You may even consider suing your landlord, previous owner, construction company or insurance company who hasn't held up their end of the insurance policy terms.

WHAT IS TOXIC MOLD?

Molds are found everywhere - outdoor and indoors. Common indoor molds include *Alternaria*, *Aspergillus*, *Cladosporium*, and *Penicillium*. Although most are harmless, two types of household molds - *Stachybotrys* and *Memmoniella* - are toxic and can pose health risks to humans.

Stachybotrys chartarum, or "**black mold**," is the fungus associated with "**toxic mold syndrome**." It grows in damp places on materials that contain wood, carpet, cardboard, wallpaper, wet leaves, hay, and straw.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF BEING EXPOSED TO TOXIC MOLD?

While there aren't standard guidelines about how much or what kind of mold is toxic, mold, especially in high concentrations, has been blamed for:

- Headaches
- Skin rashes
- Respiratory problems, such as asthma
- Lung disease
- Memory loss and brain damage (in extreme circumstances)
- Unexplained infant death
- Immune suppression
- Hypersensitivity pneumonitis, also known as farmer's lung, woodworker's lung and malt worker's lung

WHAT KIND OF INFORMATION DO I NEED TO MAKE A CLAIM

Whether you end up being able to negotiate successfully with the insurance company, or must file a lawsuit and go to court, will depend in part on how organized and thorough you are in documenting the

mold problem and your damages. At a minimum, you should have:

- Photos taken at every step of the process, from first discovering the mold through inspection and repair, including photos of household items contaminated by the mold
- Bills and receipts for inspections, repairs, medical expenses, household items you had to replace, relocation expenses, and any other expenses caused by the mold problem
- Medical reports and records

WHAT KIND OF LAWYER DO I NEED?

You'll want to look for a personal injury lawyer who has had some experience dealing with toxic mold issues. It's especially important to find a lawyer who can negotiate with insurance companies, has knowledge of real estate issues and would take your case to trial if necessary.

WHERE DO I START?

Many insurance policies have what's called a "no action" clause. This requires you to file a lawsuit within a year of discovering the mold. And all states have statutes of limitation that require you to file a lawsuit within a short time after discovering the problem.

If you or a family member have been harmed by toxic mold, you may have a negligence legal claim against:

- Your landlord or property managers
- Previous owners, if they knew about the mold and didn't disclose the problem
- Contractors who built your apartment or home
- Suppliers or manufacturers of defective building materials, such as wood that was already moldy
- You may have a legal right to recover the costs of:
 - Inspecting your property
 - Repairing the structure
 - Replacing ruined household items
 - Housing expenses during repairs



- Paying for current and future medical expenses, or emotional distress
Juries have made substantial awards in mold cases.
 - In Delaware, two women claimed that their landlord failed to fix leaks and mold problems in their apartment and that his negligence resulted in asthma attacks. The jury awarded the women \$1.04 million, an award that was upheld by the Delaware Supreme Court.
 - A Texas jury awarded a homeowner \$32 million after finding that the homeowner's insurance carrier acted in an unfair, deceptive, and fraudulent manner when evaluating the homeowner's property damage claim for mold. The award was reduced to \$4 million on appeal.
 - In California, a jury awarded a homeowner \$18 million after his insurance carrier denied his claims for mold damage. The award was later reduced to \$3 million.
- If coming to an agreement with the insurance company about the damages should be paid has taken a long time, or if the insurance company claims damage caused by mold is excluded under the insurance policy, it's time to contact a lawyer who specializes in personal injury or insurance law.

AS SEEN ON



LEGAL LEADERS



JASON P. SULTZER

Stasia Grossman

THE SULTZER LAW GROUP P.C.

CLASS ACTIONS, PRODUCT LIABILITY, COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

TO THAT END, THE FIRM'S MODEL IS FUNDAMENTALLY

different from other boutique litigation firms which limit their practice to either plaintiff or defense work in a particular area of the law. The Sultzer Law Group instead focuses on resolving complex litigation for businesses and individuals alike, regardless of the issue and whether the client is on the plaintiff or defense side of a case. "This is evident from the firm's current roster of clients and caseload," Sultzer explains, which includes a range of nationally recognized companies and individuals, and varies from serving as lead counsel in a high profile litigation against the Federal Trade Commission involving allegedly fraudulent sales of medical monitoring devices, to acting as lead trial counsel for various companies in mass/toxic tort litigation, to serving as lead counsel for a real estate investor in a complex real estate/contractual dispute involving tens of millions of dollars in potential damages. Sultzer has also recovered millions of dollars on behalf of catastrophically injured plaintiffs, and the firm serves as both lead plaintiffs' counsel and defense counsel in a number of nationwide consumer fraud class actions.

"WE'VE BEEN COUNSELING MANY OF OUR CLIENTS

for well over a decade now, and the reason we've represented them for so many years is because of both our unparalleled record of courtroom victories and our firsthand understanding of the different pressures and responsibilities faced by in-house counsel," Sultzer says.

INDEED, SULTZER STARTED HIS CAREER LEARNING

how to try cases and managing nationwide mass tort litigation as in-house counsel for Owens Corning, which at the time was facing thousands of asbestos lawsuits. He later worked at and served as the co-chair of the class action practice group for one of the largest law firms in the country, where, in one particularly notable case, he succeeded in getting a series of national class action lawsuits involving tens of millions of dollars in potential damages dismissed for his client. "Our clients come to us because we get results," Sultzer explains.

"IT'S GRATIFYING TO KNOW THAT OUR CLIENTS

trust us to handle their most pressing issues, many of which could potentially devastate them in the event of an unfavorable resolution," Sultzer says. "While we're a boutique firm headquartered in New York, our caseload is increasingly national in scope, which I attribute to both our overall focus on efficiency and our ability to try cases."

FOUNDED IN 2013 BY NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

mass tort and class action lawyer Jason P. Sultzer, the Sultzer Law Group has, in just over two years, distinguished itself as a premier boutique litigation firm composed of well known trial lawyers who handle high-stakes litigation nationwide.

ALREADY, THE FIRM HAS BEEN LISTED THE

Martindale-Hubbell® Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers in the field of class actions, and Sultzer and other firm members have individually received AV Preeminent ratings from Martindale-Hubbell®—the highest rating for legal ability and ethical standards.

"IN OPENING OUR FIRM, WE SOUGHT TO ASSEMBLE

a group of experienced lawyers from some of the largest and most prestigious law firms and corporations in the country," says Sultzer, who is a fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America, an invitation-only honorary society for trial lawyers comprising less than one-half of one percent of American lawyers.

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INJURED AT WORK: WORKERS COMP OR LAWSUIT?

Some workplaces are dangerous places. Each year, nearly 3 million workplace-related injuries and illnesses are reported. Workers who are most-often injured are laborers; nursing aides, orderlies and attendants; janitors and cleaners; heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers; and police and sheriff's officers.

Usually, such injuries and illnesses are covered by the employer's workers compensation insurance. At other times, an injured employee can file a lawsuit.

THE WORKERS COMPENSATION SYSTEM

Workers compensation is designed to protect employees who are injured at work and to protect employers from the need to defend against worker-injury lawsuits. Employees receive payments for medical and other costs for a work-related injury or illness without having to sue their employers. Workers compensation is paid for by employers and administered by the states.

Even if a worker is injured due to negligence on the part of the employer or a fellow employee, the law generally limits the worker to remedies available under the workers compensation system. These benefits are limited and pay a portion of lost wages, medical bills and some other expenses. They do not compensate for pain and suffering.

If an employer does not carry workers compensation insurance, an injured employee might be able to sue in civil court or collect money from a state fund.

THIRD-PARTY CLAIMS

If your injury was caused not by your employer or a fellow employee, but by a third party like a contractor, subcontractor, or on-site engineer, you may be able to file a personal injury lawsuit. Third-party claims also apply when someone is injured by a third party while driving a company car.

In a personal injury case, an injured worker is entitled to recover all of his or her medical bills and lost wages. In



addition, the worker can be compensated for pain and suffering.

EMPLOYER DISREGARD

If an employer hurts an employee on purpose, like during a heated argument, most states allow the employee to file a personal injury lawsuit. States not allowing this type of lawsuit are Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Maine, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia and Wyoming.

In about a dozen states, an injured employee can sue outside of the workers compensation system if the employer does something that is grossly negligent or reckless, amounting to intentional harm.

In addition, employers are expected to abide by the guidelines of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, which was passed in 1970 to reduce workplace hazards through implementation of safety and health programs. Complaints about workplace safety may be filed with OSHA.

OTHER WORKPLACE INJURY LAWSUITS

If a worker is injured by a machine or piece of equipment that is defective, failed to work properly or is inherently

dangerous, and the manufacturer failed to properly warn, the injured worker may be able to file a products liability lawsuit against the manufacturer of the product.

A worker who is injured by a toxic substance in the workplace - like asbestos, benzene, chromium compounds, silica and radium - may be able to bring a toxic tort lawsuit against the manufacturer of that substance.

CALL A PERSONAL INJURY OR EMPLOYMENT LAWYER

The issues surrounding injuries and illness in the workplace can be complicated, especially when you are pursuing a claim outside the workers compensation system. Plus, the facts of each case and the laws in each state are unique. This article provides a brief, general introduction to the subject. It is not legal advice. For more detailed information that is specific to your case, please contact a personal injury or employment lawyer.

AS SEEN ON





LYNCH LYNCH HELD ROSENBERG, P.C.

PERSONAL INJURY, MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, WORKERS' COMPENSATION

From Left: Michael S. Rosenberg,
Neil S. Weiner, James S. Lynch,
Arthur V. Lynch, Brian A. Held

2015 was another banner year for the firm and the partnering attorneys who referred matters to the firm.

LYNCH LYNCH HELD ROSENBERG, P.C., with **four Super Lawyers honorees**, three certified trial Attorneys and four attorneys in the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum, again proved why it's the choice for attorneys to refer their personal injury, medical malpractice and workers' compensation cases. The firm is permitted under New Jersey law to pay referral fees.

Founded in the 1940s by law professor Arthur V. Lynch, the firm is now managed by his grandsons, James and Arthur Lynch. The firm boasts of several attorneys who have attained verdicts or settlements in the multiple millions.

JAMES S. LYNCH, Managing Partner, handles construction accidents and medical malpractice cases. He is on the Executive Board of Governors of NJAJ. He was named to the 2008-2015 Super Lawyers lists. He is a Certified by the Supreme Court of the State of NJ as a Civil Trial Attorney. He has been selected to the NJ Top 100 Lawyers list by the ATLL and is a member of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum. In 2014, he was selected by the *New Jersey Law Journal* for the Personal Injury Award Hall of Fame. While many lawyers never achieve a verdict or settlement over \$1 Million, Mr. Lynch has been lead counsel in more than 20 cases that have resulted in a verdict or settlement of \$1 Million or more.

ARTHUR V. LYNCH, Managing Partner, handles construction accidents, auto accidents and general liability cases. He is also a member of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum and was named to *Super Lawyers* in 2014 and 2015. In 2014, he was selected by the *New Jersey Law Journal* for the Personal Injury Award Hall of Fame. Mr. Lynch is a Certified by the Supreme Court of the State of NJ as a Civil Trial Attorney. Notable verdicts and settlements include a \$6.6 million dollar settlement during trial (tried with James Lynch) in Bergen County, NJ. In 2015, Mr. Lynch was selected for the *New Jersey Law Journal's* annual "Top Verdicts & Settlements" for a \$4.26 million verdict.

BRIAN A. HELD, Partner, received the prestigious AV Preeminent® rating from Martindale-Hubbell. Mr. Held was named to the Super Lawyers list from 2011-2015. Known as a relentless litigator, a few of his notable settlements include \$4.55 million, \$1.75 million, \$1.5 million, \$1.35 million and \$1 million for severely injured or otherwise damaged clients. Mr. Held is a lifetime member of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum.

MICHAEL S. ROSENBERG, Partner, heads the Workers' Compensation and Personal Injury Protection departments of the firm. Mr. Rosenberg is rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell. He was one of only seven claimant attorneys in the State of NJ to be appointed to the NAF Advisory Council. He is a member of the NJ Advisory Council on Safety and Health (COSH). Mr. Rosenberg received the highest possible AVVO rating, "superb" and is frequently called upon to speak on issues concerning No Fault and Workers' Compensation law.

NEIL S. WEINER, Partner, aggressively pursues auto and truck crashes, general liability, medical malpractice, nursing home neglect and drowning cases. He is a Certified by the Supreme Court of NJ as a Civil Trial Attorney and was named to the *Super Lawyers* list in 2014 and 2015. Notable verdicts include NJ's largest drowning verdict of \$10 million. Mr. Weiner has several verdicts and settlements that approach or exceed \$1 million. He is the son of retired trial lawyer Richard Weiner, who was one of NJ's most successful and talented trial lawyers. Mr. Weiner proudly carries on his family's tradition of excellent representation for the injured.

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WRONGFUL BIRTH: THE LIFE THAT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE

A Georgia woman has filed a \$5 million wrongful pregnancy lawsuit against oral contraceptive maker Qualitest Pharmaceuticals. She claims she became pregnant despite taking her birth control pills in the packaging sequence.

Qualitest has recalled a number of brands and lots of the pills because they were packaged in the incorrect sequence for effective contraception.

The woman's asking for damages for pain and suffering, mental anguish, loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, expensive health care and treatment, loss of earnings, and a loss of ability to earn money.

The lawsuit seeks class action status for all women who've become pregnant because of this product defect.

WRONGFUL BIRTH

If you knew beforehand that your child would be born with a serious medical problem or birth defect, what would you do? Would you give birth to the child and do your best to raise him, or would you terminate the pregnancy? What would you do if you weren't given the chance to make that decision at all?

Wrongful birth is a legal claim or cause of action where a parent (or parents) argues her a doctor:

- Didn't properly diagnose a serious medical problem with an unborn fetus, or
- Didn't properly warn the parent of the risk of conceiving or giving birth to a child with a serious medical problem, or
- Deprived the parent of making an informed decision about whether to terminate the pregnancy because of a serious medical problem with the fetus (these last two usually are closely related)

Not all states let parents sue for wrongful birth, and laws are different in the states do allow such suits, such as Florida and New Jersey. Nonetheless, some basic principles apply in practically every wrongful birth lawsuit. For instance:

Malpractice

Essentially, wrongful birth lawsuits are medical malpractice lawsuits. The parent needs to prove:

The doctor owed the parent a **legal**

duty. This typically means showing there was a doctor-patient relationship between the parent and the doctor. Medical records showing the doctor gave her prenatal medical advice or treatment can establish this.

The doctor **breached** that duty, such as by misdiagnosing a serious medical problem or by not properly warning the parent about the problems and the risks involved with having a child with a serious medical problem.

For example, a doctor may breach his duty by not explaining to his pregnant patient the various prenatal screenings and tests available to determine if her fetus is at risk of having serious birth defects.

Next, the parent must show that the she suffered some type of **harm or injury**. Typically, the harm claimed by a parent is the fact that she has a child with a serious birth defect or medical condition. Sometimes it's enough for the parent to claim she was harmed by not being given the chance to make an informed, intelligent decision about whether or not to terminate the pregnancy.

Finally, the parent must prove that the doctor's mistake **caused** the parent's injury or harm. Generally, this comes down to a claim that the parent would have chosen to abort the fetus if the doctor didn't misdiagnose or fail to detect the birth defect, or; didn't fail to inform the parent of the risks involved with giving birth to a child with a serious defect.

Damages

Damages in wrongful birth cases usually are limited to medical costs and expenses associated with caring for a child with a serious medical condition or birth defect. However, in some states, like Illinois, parents may recover extra damages for the **emotional stress** involved with raising and caring for such a child.

NOT AN EASY SUIT

A wrongful birth lawsuit is usually a complicated legal matter. That's because of all the things a parent must prove to win the case. Often, expert witnesses, like other physicians, are needed to prove that the parent's doctor was negligent. For

example, they're often needed to show that another competent and reasonable physician in the same or similar circumstances would have done something differently in the parent's case, such as ordered a certain genetic test.

DON'T BE CONFUSED

Some states, like New York and Illinois, allow a cause of action for **wrongful life**. They're very similar to wrongful birth actions, but the main difference is that the **child**, not the parent, sues the doctor. Sometimes, a parent sues on behalf of the child, and sometimes the child sues the parent, too.

The main idea behind these cases is that the doctor's negligence in failing to diagnose or discuss with the parent the risks of a serious birth defect led the parent **not** to terminate the pregnancy. As a result, the child asks for damages to compensate him for having to live with a serious birth defect or medical condition.

Also, many states allow parents to sue for **wrongful pregnancy**. This is where a healthy child is born, but the pregnancy was unwanted and unexpected. It usually involves a doctor's negligence in performing a medical operation to prevent pregnancies, such as a vasectomy. Again, the regular rules for medical malpractice apply to these cases.

As for damages, parents typically may recover the costs of the failed medical procedure, as well as damages for pain and suffering caused by the medical procedure. Sometimes the parents may also recover damages for the medical expenses and pain and suffering connected to the pregnancy and birth, and the mother's lost wages caused by the pregnancy. Though rare, it's possible for parents to get damages for the costs of rearing or raising the child until he reaches the age of majority, usually 18 years old.

Contact a Medical Malpractice lawyer with your questions or concerns.

AS SEEN ON





SILBERSTEIN, AWAD & MIKLOS, P.C.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, PERSONAL INJURY

Front, from left: Joseph P. Awad, Joseph Miklos, Alexandria Awad*, Chan H. Park, Danielle M. Hansen, Olga Siamionava-Muzio
Back, from left: Robert A. Miklos, James E. Baker, Daniel P. Miklos, Marianne C. Burke, Anthony E. Colantonio, MD, Michael Lauterborn, Kyle M. Mitchell
*Pending admission

TURNING TO A HOSPITAL FOR MEDICAL CARE SHOULDN'T be a risky decision, but the unsettling truth is that hospitals can be dangerous places.

IN 2013, A STUDY IN THE JOURNAL OF PATIENT SAFETY estimated that hospital mistakes cause as many as 440,000 patient deaths each year—a number that would make medical errors the third leading cause of death in the United States, behind only heart disease and cancer.

"WHEN HOSPITALS MINIMIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF PATIENT safety, the consequences can be fatal," says Joseph Awad, a senior partner at the medical malpractice and personal injury law firm Silberstein, Awad & Miklos. "These statistics bear that out, and they confirm that many hospitals lack the necessary safeguards for preventing medical errors."

OVER THE PAST 35 YEARS, AWAD AND SENIOR PARTNER Joseph Miklos have made it their mission to address this problem, serving as advocates for injured patients and their families in thousands of medical malpractice, construction site, and negligence cases.

"UNFORTUNATELY, VICTIMS SEEKING REDRESS WILL GET nowhere on their own," Miklos says. "Hospitals, insurers, and construction corporations operate from a position of power, so the only place an individual has a level playing field is in a civil court of law."

IN THAT ARENA, SILBERSTEIN, AWAD & MIKLOS HAS AN enviable track record: the firm has recovered more than \$1 billion for its clients (including numerous record-setting verdicts) and has appeared before appellate courts more than 100 times to argue matters of law. "Experience counts," Awad says of this performance. "I can't think of a medical malpractice or personal injury claim that we haven't encountered over the years, and that gives us a solid foundation for success when prosecuting new matters."

THE FIRM'S COMPREHENSIVE EXPERTISE IS EVIDENT IN the make-up of its team, which, in addition to accomplished trial attorneys, includes an attorney-physician, an attorney-nurse, an attorney-

pharmacist, an in-house board-certified physician, and a registered nurse. The firm also has access to experts in medicine, economics, engineering, and vocational rehabilitation.

"WE KNOW WHO TO TALK TO, WHERE TO FIND THE answers, and what steps are necessary to win," Miklos says, "and we use that knowledge to take on challenging matters too important to ignore."

INDEED, SILBERSTEIN, AWAD & MIKLOS HAS A HISTORY of identifying and prosecuting cases that are vital to the safety and quality of life of the community. Among its accomplishments, the firm has helped improve the quality control of a number of hospitals and construction sites by advocating for changes in clinical practice guidelines and construction site safety protocols. "Our clients' lawsuits share the safety concerns of our juries, which is why we've been able to persuade so many of the righteousness of our clients' causes," Awad notes.

RECOGNIZING THIS ACCOMPLISHMENT, AWAD AND Miklos have been AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell®, the organization's highest rating for legal ability and ethical standards, and also listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* and *Super Lawyers*. Their firm, meanwhile, is ranked Tier 1 in New York City for plaintiffs' medical malpractice law and personal injury litigation by *U.S. News – Best Lawyers* "Best Law Firms."

"WE HAVE A REPUTATION FOR BRINGING STABILITY AND hope back to our clients' lives," Miklos says, "and our dedication stems from the simple fact that we care deeply about our clients' injuries and losses, and want to do all we can to make a difference."

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WHO'S IN CONTROL DURING YOUR DIVORCE? YOU ARE

When you know and accept your divorce is a reality, you may tell yourself that you'll do your best to stay in control, and get through it all. Most people make that same promise and succeed. Life goes on. You want to get through the process, hope your legal bill doesn't get out of control and move ahead with your life.

But there's no question that some people do make mistakes in divorce - big mistakes. And unfortunately, because of the nature of divorce, we often have to live with those mistakes for years, sometimes even for the rest of our lives.

It's hard to keep it together, and it's easy to lose sight of your goals as you move through your divorce. A divorce can wear anyone down - emotionally, physically and financially. Mistakes in your divorce can affect you life for years to come. Recognize and know how to avoid mistakes you may regret later.

WHO IS IN CONTROL?

You are. Your lawyer is your counsel. People can easily forget it's their divorce and not their lawyer's. It's important to listen and consider your lawyer's valuable advice and guidance, but remember, you make the decisions in the end. Ask questions when you don't understand something fully, and be informed as you make decisions. It can be overwhelming, but well worth it in the end.

"Help" from Others

Take well-intended advice with a grain of salt. Unlike your lawyer, whom you've hired to represent you, advice from well-meaning friends and family may cause more harm than good. If those close to you aren't giving you the support you need, in the way you need it, or they challenge your judgment, give yourself some space.

"Help" from Your Spouse

Don't try to win points with your spouse. One spouse may take action or agree to terms that aren't in their best interests to influence the other spouse's

actions. A spouse may try to win their soon-to-be ex-spouse back by agreeing to terms in the divorce they wouldn't agree to otherwise. The tactic won't work, and you may be left with even more regret, resentment and frustration.

KEEP YOUR EYE ON YOUR FUTURE

Don't sell yourself short while making your way through your divorce. It can be exhausting, you want it over and you want to move on. It's easy to just say "yes" to a settlement term, even though you may regret it later. Remember, it probably won't be easy and can be expensive to make changes to support and custody terms later on.

Taxes

Divorce is taxing **and** affects your taxes. Make sure you know how property division and support issues affect your Form 1040 each April. Don't assume your divorce lawyer can give you the answers you need on the tax implications in your case. You may need tax planning help.

How can divorce affect your taxes? Taxes could change your view on the value of an item or asset in property division. For example, the family home and a stock portfolio may have equal values today, but factor in taxes, maybe upon sale later on, and the numbers may look very different.

Income tax is another issue. Alimony and unallocated support (money paid as child support and alimony combined) is taxed income to the recipient; the payer gets a deduction. Child support isn't income to the recipient, and there's no deduction to the payer. Think of your finances now and down the road.

SUPPORT, CUSTODY AND VISITATION

Think of your daily life years in the future and the impact from your divorce. How you try to structure support and child custody issues are the key concerns.

In most states, parents are encouraged to work out a parenting plan, instead of having the court decide, and many state laws favor joint custody as the first-choice custody

arrangement. Don't be too quick to agree to child custody terms if you think they won't work. People are different - some can successfully co-parent after divorce. Others will return to court more than anyone would like to see, and it gets expensive. You and your spouse know each other very well, so be realistic about how you'll get along after the divorce.

Give thought to how support terms are structured. For example, you may want to try to include support terms for future events, such as children's college expenses, even if they're still very young. You may have preferences in the terms of your spousal support, for example, you'd like to try to negotiate for more support while getting back into the job market or completing school, rather than support for a longer time.

Divorce is stressful, your case can't wrap up soon enough and sometimes you just don't want to think about it all. Take a deep breath, take one step at a time and keep in control.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUR ATTORNEY

- I'll face a huge change in household income after the divorce, can you help me preview what my income taxes will look like once the divorce is final?
- Can our divorce decree include terms for future expenses for the children, such as college, even if we don't include set dollar amounts? Can we "agree to agree" and work out the details later?
- Are there added issues to think about if my ex-spouse is self-employed?

AS SEEN ON





SCHLISSEL OSTROW KARABATOS, PLLC

CHILD CUSTODY, DIVORCE, FAMILY

Standing, from left: Jeanine M. Elbaz, Arnold S. Klein, Lisa R. Schoenfeld, Joseph A. DeMarco, Jennifer Rosenkrantz, Hillary Reinhartz
Seated, from left: Stephen W. Schlissel, Elena Karabatos

SCHLISSEL OSTROW KARABATOS (SOK) IS AN INNOVATIVE matrimonial and family law firm with a reputation for handling the most complicated financial, valuation, and property distribution matters, as well as the most complex custody and support issues.

"WE'RE WILLING TO CHALLENGE WHAT PEOPLE think are established principles," notes managing partner Elena Karabatos. "When the law is undeveloped or still developing, this firm has never hesitated to try and make new law for the betterment of our clients."

INDEED, SOK HAS REGULARLY CHALLENGED CASE law to protect its clients' interests. SOK attorneys were among the first lawyers in the country to prevent a parent from smoking in the presence of her children, and they pioneered new law in the areas of settlement agreements and custody evaluations. The firm has also been a leader in securing the rights of non-monied spouses to effective legal counsel.

"WE TAKE PRIDE IN BRINGING THE HIGHEST DEGREE of excellence, integrity, and creativity to the practice of matrimonial law," says partner Stephen W. Schlissel. "Although we have the depth and expertise to aggressively litigate the largest and most complex matters, we are also extraordinarily aware of the nuances of family law; and because of that, we often take a more nuanced approach in order to deliver a superior result for the client in the long run."

THE ATTORNEYS OF SOK BEGIN EACH CASE BY evaluating the situation from a holistic perspective, taking into account the emotional components of the matter, the personalities of the clients, and the financial aspects of the case. And while the firm's attorneys are experienced trial lawyers, they regularly address issues by using alternative resolution methods, such as negotiation, mediation, arbitration, and collaborative law.

GIVEN THEIR EXPERTISE, IT SHOULD come as no surprise that the firm's lawyers have garnered significant recognition from their peers. SOK is one of the few firms in the country with two fellows of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and a Diplomat of the American College of Family Trial Lawyers, which limits membership to 100 attorneys across the country. The firm's name partners have also been selected for inclusion in *New York Super Lawyers* and *The Best Lawyers in America*, with Mr. Schlissel named in every edition of both publications. In addition, both Schlissel and Karabatos are named in *Ten Leaders of Matrimonial and Divorce Law on Long Island*.

AS LEADERS OF THE BAR, THE FIRM'S LAWYERS HAVE achieved a number of honors in the family law field. Schlissel was a recipient of the 2013 Distinguished Service Medallion, the highest honor bestowed by the Nassau County Bar Association (NCBA); he was named by *Super Lawyers* as one of the Top 100 Lawyers in the Metropolitan New York area in 2011, and he has also been named to the Independent Judicial Election Qualifications Commission for the 10th Judicial District (Nassau & Suffolk Counties) and is a member of the Board of Governors of the New York State Attorney-Client Fee Dispute Resolution Board. Karabatos serves as the treasurer of the NCBA and president of the New York State Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML).

BEYOND THE FIRM'S NAME PARTNERS, ATTORNEYS Joseph A. DeMarco and Lisa R. Schoenfeld have been selected as Fellows of The New York Chapter of The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML). Jennifer Rosenkrantz, Joseph A. DeMarco and Lisa R. Schoenfeld have been selected to *Ten Leaders of Divorce Law on Long Island - Age 45 and Under*. The firm has the rare distinction of having each of the firm's partners and associates named a SuperLawyer in some form.

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QUI TAM A MEANS OF RIGHTING WRONGS

Not many people speak - or read - Latin anymore, except for lawyers. "Qui tam" is a Latin phrase which means, literally, "who as well for the king as for himself sues in this matter." Qui tam is a means by which private persons act to prosecute fraud claims on their own, but on behalf of the federal government. Sometimes these "private attorneys general" take a share of any monetary compensation that is awarded.

- Private citizens can act on their own in a "qui tam" action to act against fraud within or upon federal agencies
- The response of the US Department of Justice will play a critical role in whether the suit continues
- Understanding pertinent federal rules, regulations and laws is essential to pursuing a qui tam action

THE ROLE OF PRIVATE CITIZENS TO FIGHT FRAUD

The US Congress passed the False Claims Act in 1863. This law allows private citizens to file suit, in the name of the US government, claiming fraud by persons who receive or use federal government funds. The incentive is that the citizen bringing the qui tam action will receive a share in the money recovered, if any.

Most of the first lawsuits were against defense contractors. Everyone has heard of the outrageous dollar amounts charged by some defense contractors for parts and supplies.

Qui tam actions for fraud by various other federal agencies have become common recently. These agencies have included the Departments of Transportation, Education, and Energy and NASA.

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ROLE AS A KEY PLAYER

The US Department of Justice has prosecuting attorneys, known as "Assistant US Attorneys" at offices around the country. They prosecute a variety of civil and criminal actions (especially federal drug crimes) under the supervision of US Attorneys. Whether the US Attorneys' office in the area, or the US Attorney General, takes an interest in joining in the qui tam suit will greatly impact the future course of the suit.



They might choose to intervene in - i.e., join in - the suit, and might start their own action after intervening.

If you're aware of a fraud being committed by or against a federal agency, seek the advice of an attorney as to: 1) whether to pursue a qui tam action; and 2) when and how to notify the US Attorneys' office of the fraud. The attorney will be able to give you advice on the likelihood of prevailing and whether the US Attorneys' Office will take an interest. At a minimum, if you've informed that office of a potential fraud, you may have helped bring a halt to wrongdoing against the American public.

INTERPRETATION OF FEDERAL LAW WILL BE IMPORTANT

In order to prove a case of fraud by or against a federal agency, it's necessary to prove an intentional act or intentional course of conduct whereby the federal government was wrongfully deprived of its resources or property. In practical terms, the dollar loss to the government agency is a factor, as a lawsuit won't be worthwhile unless government losses are significant.

The federal agency might collect and use evidence to act on its own. An employee could be disciplined or fired for committing internal fraud. If a contractor or supplier is committing fraud, the agency can stop doing business with it.

AN ATTORNEY'S ROLE IN A QUI TAM ACTION

An attorney's advice will be essential to help you understand whether fraud exists and can be proved. The attorney will:

- Analyze federal rules, regulations and law for possible violations
- Consider the likelihood of proving a claim under rules of evidence
- Act as a liaison to the US Attorneys' Office in gauging government interest in the lawsuit
- Navigate the detailed process of a qui tam suit

The US Department of Justice Web site is a helpful resource. It contains a memorandum with a general overview of qui tam suits under the False Claims Act. There's also other background information about the process and about the work of the Department.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUR ATTORNEY

- What types of evidence can be used in a qui tam lawsuit?
- Can I bring a qui tam lawsuit if I'm a federal employee?

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LAND USE REGULATIONS FOR YOUR SMALL BUSINESS



You came up with a good idea or product to sell, decided what legal form your small business would use, developed a business plan, and secured financing. But where will you open the store or office? Is the planned use of the property that you've purchased or leased for your small business permitted under zoning and land use regulations?

Zoning and land use regulations are designed to protect the public health and safety as well as natural resources and the environment. These types of laws can restrict or limit various aspects of any business, ranging from what kinds of business activities can be conducted on a particular piece of land, to the specifications for buildings, and the parking to be provided for customers or clients.

If your proposed site is inside a city's limits, you might have overlapping city and county zoning laws to deal with. Zoning laws are created and enforced almost entirely at the local government level.

ZONING & LAND USE LAWS

Zoning ordinances are supposed to form a uniform, orderly scheme for using real estate. Typically, there are five major types or categories of zones:

- Commercial
- Industrial
- Agricultural
- Recreational
- Residential

A business normally has to be conducted in a commercial zone, unless it falls within some type of zoning exception (like a variance or non-conforming use) or if it's a home-based business, which is often regulated by separate zoning laws.

ZONING PROBLEMS

A non-conforming use is when land is used in a manner inconsistent with a new zoning ordinance.

Examples include:

- The nature or characteristics of the building itself do not conform to the zoning ordinance, such as when the building is over the maximum height allowed by the new law
- The activity going on in the building does not conform, like when a zoning classification changes from light commercial to residential, an existing business could continue to operate

Generally, you don't have to quit an

existing non-conforming use and can continue after the adoption of a zoning ordinance. However, the right to continue a non-conforming use may be lost if the non-conforming use is abandoned.

For example:

- If a nightclub operates in a storefront in an area that is later zoned to exclude all alcohol-related operations, the nightclub can continue to operate
- If the nightclub closes, the right to continue the use may be lost if the same nightclub is not reopened or if some other similar alcohol-related use is not begun within a certain period of time

Conditional use is when a use is permitted under a zoning ordinance but only when certain conditions are met. For example, a zoning ordinance may permit professional offices in a residential zone if at least four off-street parking places are provided.

Variances, or "special use permits," are an exception to the requirements of a zoning ordinance. State or local laws will normally detail when and how variances may be granted. Usually, you must show some kind of hardship to receive a variance.



QUESTIONS FOR YOUR ATTORNEY

- How long could it take to successfully change the zoning on my property?
- How does "spot zoning" differ from "conditional use"?

AS SEEN ON



NEW YORK NEW YORK

Rosenberg & Estis, P.C.



Rosenberg & Estis' Top Rated Lawyers honorees include from left to right:

Michael Feinstein, Robert M. Kessler, Steven Goldberg, Howard W. Kingsley, John Hadlock, Richard L. Sussman, Gary M. Rosenberg, Managing Member, Luise A. Barrack, Warren E. Estis, Bradley S. Silverbush, Dennis I. Hellman, Joshua Kopelowitz, Norman Flitt and Neil Underberg.



Rosenberg & Estis, P.C. is one of New York's leading real estate law firms, providing clients with expert representation in commercial and residential real estate transactions, litigation, administrative law proceedings and appeals. The firm's attorneys are widely acknowledged for their unmatched knowledge of Manhattan's rules and regulations, supported by a thorough understanding of market dynamics.

The boutique real estate law firm, which celebrated its 40th anniversary this year, launched an ambitious plan in 2010 to boost the number of skilled attorneys on staff as well as greatly expand its practice areas. Rosenberg & Estis' growth has been so dramatic during the past

five years — growing from 44 attorneys in 2010 to more than 70 today — that the firm was recognized this year by The Real Deal as the No. 1 real estate law firm in New York.

The law firm's continued success is based on Rosenberg & Estis' unique ability to recognize and handle all aspects of complex real estate projects. The firm skillfully counsels financial institutions, developers and building owners on the city's complex rent regulation laws governing residential housing, assisting them in navigating issues such as rent increases, due diligence, redevelopment and subsidized housing and benefit programs.

Our transactional practice focuses on representing clients in all aspects of New York's real estate market. We undertake financing, leasing, entity formation, and purchases and sales for clients of all types and sizes.

Our firm includes a strong litigation group that represents clients with disputes involving any sector of residential and commercial real estate. The breadth of our litigation experience and expertise has enabled the firm to earn the designation as Approved Outside Counsel to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).



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A WRONGFUL DEATH SUIT IS LIMITED TO MONETARY AWARDS

If your relative dies as a result of someone else's misconduct, you might be able to file a lawsuit. The wrongdoer can be an individual, a company, or another type of entity such as a government bureau. A wrongful death lawsuit is limited to monetary damages.

NOT EVERYONE CAN FILE A WRONGFUL DEATH LAWSUIT

You must be related to the victim in some way, or somehow injured - financially somehow - by the death to file a wrongful death lawsuit. Usually, you must be a spouse or a child. Some states allow more distant relatives to sue. Some states don't allow one family member to sue another family member for the wrongful death of a third family member. In addition, the



personal representative of the victim's probate estate can sue to reimburse the victim's estate. In this case, any damage award will eventually go to the victim's creditors and heirs.

YOU MUST PROVE YOUR CASE TO WIN

The misconduct that caused the victim's wrongful death can be either an act or a failure to act. The defendant's conduct must have been either careless or intentionally designed to cause harm. The victim must have at least one surviving family member who has suffered loss because of the victim's death. A personal representative must have been appointed for the victim's probate estate to file on behalf of the estate.

MISCONDUCT NEED NOT BE CRIMINAL

Many wrongful death lawsuits are filed because of deaths due to criminal acts such as murder, DUI, distracted driving, and serious medical malpractice. Some types of negligence, however, are not considered serious enough to justify criminal charges. For example, a nurse who fails to change a patient's bandages in a timely manner might not face criminal charges even if the patient dies, depending on state law. Nevertheless, the nurse (and the hospital) might lose a wrongful death lawsuit on this basis.

DAMAGE AWARDS CAN BE VERY HIGH

In a wrongful death lawsuit, you may claim damages for direct expenses like medical bills and funeral bills. You may also claim damages for the loss of a lifetime of financial support that the victim would have provided, or for the loss of household services that the victim would have performed. You can also sue for loss of emotional benefits such as companionship and sexual relations. In some cases, damages for non-economic losses are greater than damages for economic losses. Most wrongful death lawsuits are settled out of court, although in many cases a settlement is not reached until after a lawsuit is filed.

A LAWYER CAN HELP

The law surrounding wrongful death is complicated. Plus, the facts of each case are unique. This article provides a brief, general introduction to the topic. For more detailed, specific information, please contact a personal injury lawyer.

AS SEEN ON



KRAMER, DILLOF, LIVINGSTON & MOORE

PERSONAL INJURY, MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, NEGLIGENCE, WRONGFUL DEATH



A TRADITION OF SUCCESS FOR CLIENTS

Judy Livingston and Tom Moore are the Senior Partners at Kramer, Dillof, Livingston & Moore (KDLM). Between them they have won 122 jury verdicts of more than \$1 million; and have negotiated settlements for clients in excess of \$1 billion. The firm ranks first in ALM's Medical Malpractice Hall of Fame; first on Verdicts & Settlements Motor Vehicle Hall of Fame; and regularly appears on every list that recognizes outstanding results for clients.

GROUNDBREAKING RESULTS

For more than 50 years KDLM has provided dedicated representation to victims of medical malpractice, negligence, wrongful death and personal injury. Five of the top 25 cases in the Medical Malpractice Hall of Fame were won by KDLM partners. The team's work has resulted in groundbreaking results for clients, including some of the most noteworthy recent cases in the New York Courts:

A \$172 million verdict on behalf of a woman who was tragically injured after New York City EMTs failed to perform basic emergency care. It was the largest personal injury verdict in New York State in 2014, and the 4th largest in the nation.

A \$130 million verdict for a 10-year-old girl seriously injured by a hospital during the mother's labor and delivery; the second-largest medical malpractice verdict in New York State history.

A \$122 million verdict for a 45 year-old who suffered brain damage after three hospitals failed to diagnose and properly treat the woman's Stevens-Johnson syndrome. That verdict was the third largest in New York State history.

A \$41 million verdict for a 53-year-old construction worker who was struck by a Verizon truck and left brain damaged and partially paralyzed. This was the largest verdict involving a motor vehicle in New York history.

A \$20 million settlement in 2015 for two recent college graduates who suffered third-degree burns when the popular household decoration they purchased from a well-known national retailer suddenly and unexpectedly burst into flames.

An \$18 million settlement in 2015 for failing to diagnose or treat an infant's necrotizing enterocolitis.

A \$10 million settlement in 2015 for improperly discharging from an emergency room a woman who was suffering from a paralyzing spinal injury.

A \$6 million verdict in 2015 for failing to monitor and treat a woman who committed suicide in a state mental hospital.

DEDICATION TO CLIENTS

"The most rewarding part of this profession is getting our clients the justice they deserve in terms of monetary damages," says Livingston. "From the inception of a case to its conclusion, we are focused on restoring hope and dignity to our clients." Adds Moore, "Our clients have suffered irreparable tragedy. We restore to them a measure of aspiration, self-esteem, and independence – otherwise unattainable."

LEADERSHIP IN SERVING OTHERS

Livingston and Moore – who are married and have three children – have provided important leadership to several non-profit organizations. Their work in education and health care includes: Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert, where Judy served as co-president; Andean Health Resources; Doc2Doc; the Inner City scholarship Fund; and the Police Athletic League.

RECOGNITION BY THEIR PEERS

Livingston and Moore were honored last year with the Founder's Award, the highest honor conferred by Fordham University. Livingston also received Hofstra University's Presidential Medal, and gave the commencement address to the Law School's graduating class. She had previously been given an Honorary Doctor of Laws by the University. Moore was similarly honored this year by Fordham University: he was given an honorary degree and gave the commencement address.

PUBLIC POLICY

Public policy, also commonly referred to as domestic policy, is a system of laws and regulations that reflect the actions of the government. It is the collective attitude, ideas, and opinions of the citizens of the country and individual states, and it influences the enactment and interpretation of legislation.

Public policy reflects the course of action taken by the government to address the needs of society and solve its problems, encompassing governance and administration and public finance. It also reflects the inaction of the government in areas that the government refuses to regulate or govern. Essentially it is what the government does and does not do in the areas of public health, safety, and welfare.

ROOTED IN VALUES, MORALS AND PRINCIPLES

Public policy is derived from the values, morals, and principles of citizens. Legislature and courts act use what they believe to be the best interests of citizens and the general public. While laws are written and enacted by Congress and state legislatures, public policy can be implied and vary within the federal, state, and municipal levels of government.

It changes and fluctuates frequently because it is rooted in the values that tie society together, and those values vary in cultures and change over time. Accordingly, policy analysis is used to make laws. Laws using public policy as their basis are most effective when they reflect the most generally accepted values and beliefs of society.

PRESENT THROUGHOUT SOCIETY

Public policy is prevalent in various areas of society, including the following to name a few:

- Education policy
- Social welfare policy
- Health care policy
- Criminal justice policy
- Social policy

- Economic policy
- Environmental policy
- Energy policy

ECONOMIC POLICY PART OF PUBLIC POLICY

Public policy results in various federal and state social welfare programs to achieve societal goals, including:

- Welfare
- Medicare and Medicaid
- Public education
- Social Security
- Pensions
- Unemployment compensation
- Supplemental Security Income
- Family protective services

Because economic policy is an important component of public policy, budget analysis plays a vital role in the public policy making process. Social welfare programs provide assistance, including financial assistance, to citizens who are unable to support themselves or are disadvantaged members of society. The programs are aimed at improving living conditions within society and bettering human welfare.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Public policy is influenced by the beliefs, values, and morals of the members of society. Therefore, public policy is often comprised of numerous divergent interests, including the religious, political, and economic beliefs of society's members. These competing interests within society cause individuals and groups to try to influence and shape public policy by using the methods of education, advocacy, and interest groups.

Interested members of society often try to influence public policy by lobbying and using political pressure. Interested individuals can influence public policy by personally advocating their position or increase their advocating power by joining an organization that shares their beliefs.

ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION

The public policy process begins with choosing which problems need to be addressed. Once problem are identified, the agenda-setting step takes place. After agendas have been set, the interested parties, such as interest groups and organizations, begin their advocacy for the ideologies they want to become policy. Policy-making usually entails translating preferences into policy through the enactment of legislation.

Enacting legislation reconce conflicts and differences between the interested parties. Once a policy has been implemented, policy evaluation methods need to be set up.

Policy evaluation ensures that policies, programs, and public services are delivered as effectively and efficiently as possible. Although policy success or failure may be difficult to measure, some common methods used to evaluate a policy's effectiveness include:

- Public opinion polls
- Evidence related to national statistics
- Academic research
- Systematic reviews
- Economic appraisal
- Systematic audits
- Regulatory impact assessments

QUESTIONS FOR YOUR ATTORNEY

- What if I don't agree with with the current public policy?
- Can I contact my local or state representative to let them know what I think they should do about a specific issue?
- Do I need to register my special interest group anywhere?

AS SEEN ON



IMPACT DRIVEN ADVOCACY



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**FIGHTING FOR WORKPLACE JUSTICE, COMMUNITY JUSTICE,
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SENATOR CHARLES SCHUMER ON ARTHUR Z. SCHWARTZ:

Whenever anyone calls on Arthur to do something good, he's there and he doesn't ask what's in it for him and he doesn't ask how much money there is and he doesn't ask anything. He just does it. And you know, when you think about it, he is the kind of person who – we use the word with a lot of cliché and it's overused– but he truly is a great American. You know when the founding fathers set up the country – if you read the Federalist's Papers, what was their greatest doubt? Well, they had a lot of doubts. There was dealing with this new little beast called democracy in a republic. But the thing they worried about most is whether the citizenry would come forward and stand up to the plate.

You know, for a thousand years people had let someone else run things and they were really worried that the only people who would get involved in their government, whether it be running for office or, more importantly, just working to see that the government worked, were people only of self-interest. And of course we have a lot of that. We have a ton of apathy, people don't care. And then it seems like all too many people who get involved are doing it because they're saying there's something in it for numero uno. But there are lots of people who are in it for the right reasons. And if you had to pick somebody who sort of –this room if filled with them, that's one of the nice things about Arthur and his friends– but if you had to pick somebody who symbolizes that, it would be Arthur Schwartz.

**WHEN ARTHUR SCHWARTZ
SPEAKS
IMPORTANT PEOPLE
LISTEN**



PREPARING TO MEET AN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAWYER

It can be a big waste of time for both you and the lawyer if you're not prepared for your first meeting. Being unprepared may also end up costing you money, because it will take longer for the lawyer you hire to get up to speed on your legal matter.

The lawyer will want to know who you are and how you can be contacted. The lawyer may also ask for a personal and business background. So you'll need to write down anything that you consider to be relevant background information and have it available for the lawyer. Also bring along any documents that you have.

Sometimes, a lawyer may also try to speed the information-gathering process by sending you a questionnaire to fill out in advance. If this happens, be sure to fill out the questionnaire and send it in to the lawyer's office before the meeting. Also send along copies of any available documents that may be requested in the questionnaire.

Before you get too far into a meeting or conversation, the lawyer is going to want to know about possible conflicts of interest. If you have a litigation matter, you should bring a list of other employees who may be witnesses, defendants or interested parties. If the lawyer or the lawyer's firm represents anyone on the other side of the fence, he or she will have a conflict and will usually not be able to represent you.

Written documentation is always important. Even if a lawyer doesn't ask for documentation beforehand, it's still a good idea to bring a copy of all documents relevant to your situation to the meeting. Spend some time thinking about what you may have on hand. Try to organize the documents in a logical manner before you meet with the lawyer.

It is absolutely essential that you bring the originals and a copy of any and all papers that directly relate to your legal issue.

If you are trying to secure intellectual property rights on a design, a work of art,



a mark or whatever, you should bring a reproduction or a rendition to your meeting with the lawyer.

Bring the originals and a copy of all correspondence relating to the matter. Dates can be critical. One date, in particular, that can be very important is when you may have first used a business logo, a mark or a product that you are trying to protect. Get a calendar and mark down dates of when things happened and when you received any notices or other documents. Bring the calendar to your meeting to use as a reference.

Your lawyer will want to know who you talked with, including the names of any representatives at government agencies. You should have names, addresses, and telephone numbers available.

Prepare a list of questions to take with you to your first meeting. In theory, no question is too silly to ask. Keep in mind, though, that you don't want to scare a lawyer out of representing you. Questions you might ask a lawyer would include:

Don't be afraid to subtly quiz prospective lawyers to see if they really know what they are talking about. Maybe you could even

ask them for definitions of a few IT terms to see if they can tell you what they mean.

What would the lawyer like to see in order to evaluate representing your interests?

What might your other options be?

How many similar matters has he or she handled?

What percent of his or her practice is in the area of expertise that you need?

What problems does the lawyer foresee with your situation?

How would the lawyer go about handling your situation? What is the process?

How long will it take to bring the matter to a conclusion?

How would the lawyer charge for his or her services?

Would the lawyer handle the matter personally or would it be passed on to some other lawyer in the firm? If other lawyers or staff may do some of the work, could you meet them?

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YOURS OR MINE? DIVIDING PROPERTY DURING A DIVORCE SETTLEMENT

Whether you and your spouse agree on a property settlement, or have the court decide the issues, a lot of work and planning goes into this part of your divorce. The basic step of completing a property inventory and planning for tax impacts are important.

TAKING A PROPERTY INVENTORY

Before you can nail down a property settlement, you need a big picture of what your assets are. One of your first tasks, even if you're thinking about a divorce, is to make a property inventory. It's vital to list all property you and your spouse own. Don't try to hide assets as it will only complicate dividing your property.

Many lawyers have property checklists to help clients complete their inventories. You may be surprised to rediscover certain assets.

TAX CONSIDERATIONS

Generally, the property division in your divorce doesn't create tax consequences to worry about on your next tax return. The reason is that usually there's no federal tax gain or loss when a property transfer is "incident to the divorce." This likely means that the transfer happens within a year of the date the marriage ends, or is related to the end of your marriage.

Further, for a transfer to be related to the end of a marriage, your divorce or separation decree must also provide for it, and it has to be done within six years of the marriage's dissolution.

Review possible tax impacts of your property division with your lawyer or accountant as you work towards the final terms.

PROPERTY TRANSFER AFTER THE DIVORCE

As soon as the property settlement is approved or the court finalizes the divorce, you'll want to take care of the details of the property transfer. This includes preparing and signing the documents needed to transfer ownership.

While it may be the last thing you want to do, taking care of these details will save future

trouble and make it easier to gain closure on this chapter of your life.

Gifts between spouses may be treated as a gift to the couple's marital property. A common scenario is transferring title to real estate from your name alone to joint ownership with your spouse. Using your separate property, such as providing the down payment for a house, may be a "gift" to the marital property.

YOURS, MINE OR OURS: RULES FOR GIFTS AND INHERITED PROPERTY

There are some general rules to know when it comes to gifts and inherited property. However, do talk to your divorce lawyer about the background facts for these assets to help make sure the property division in your divorce is fair and accurate.

GIFTS CAN BE MADE TO YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE AS A COUPLE

Third parties, even your grandma, can make joint gifts to a couple. The answer all turns on your state's law, the facts and the proof in your case.

MIXING AND CHANGING PROPERTY TYPES

Separate property can become marital property depending on how you hold its title, use it and your intentions. Commingling or mixing your separate assets, such as bank account balances, with marital assets can mean a change from separate to marital property.

You can also do something that transmutes or changes property from separate to marital. For example, changing the title of a car you own and allowing your spouse to drive it, or using your money to fix up your marital home.

Understand that the lines aren't as clear as you might think. Your lawyer can best help you review your property inventory and the history behind it, and answer whether or not your case falls within a rule or is an exception to it.



QUESTIONS FOR YOUR ATTORNEY

- My spouse and I have moved a lot. Does that affect whether community property or equitable division methods are used to divide our assets?
- Does my separate property lose its character if I use it to benefit my family? What if it's a major asset, such as the family home?
- My spouse and I agreed to put much of the income we save into my spouse's 401(k) account. How will that factor into our property settlement agreement?
- I paid for the majority of our more expensive assets, like the televisions and kitchen appliances. How can I claim those as "mine"?

AS SEEN ON





Seated, from left: Steve Silpe, Ira Garr
Standing, from left: Michielle Spector, Emily Rubin, Jordana Barish, Lindsay Miller, Katie Pandolfini

GARR SILPE, P.C.

PREMIER DIVORCE & FAMILY LAW FIRM

Garr Silpe, PC is regarded as one of the premier matrimonial law firms in the country by lawyers and judges alike. We possess extensive experience in all respects of matrimonial and family law. Led by Ira Garr and Steve Silpe, our attorneys provide sophisticated client services in divorce, child custody, child support, equitable distribution of property, paternity agreements, prenuptial and post-nuptial agreements, matters involving same sex marriage, litigation of all matrimonial and family law matters as well as mediation. We also specialize in matrimonial appeals, often handling these matters for other law firms.

Our firm represents many high net worth individuals and celebrities in highly contested, litigated, and non-litigated matters.

Garr Silpe, PC is proud to have been listed in U.S. News and World Report Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms in America". Our lawyers have been AV Preeminent[®] Rated by Martindale-Hubbell and are listed in both *New York Super Lawyers* and Rising Stars.

Every client who retains us is in a unique situation and we approach each case from a client-centric perspective. Because these moments in life can be very emotional, stressful and unpredictable, we respond quickly to crisis and are skilled at fluid case management. It is our firm's policy to be available to clients virtually around the clock if the necessity arises.

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PERSONAL INJURY CLAIMS AND WEARING A HELMET

Helmet use is often a hot issue, from sports to bike and motorcycle use. There's debate on whether government laws and rules should require helmet use. Then there's the impact of helmet use in a personal injury lawsuit after an accident.

DO I HAVE TO WEAR A HELMET?

Helmet use during certain activities may be controlled by a state law, local ordinance, or a private party's rules, such as a sports facility owner or operator. It's also possible helmet use is expected based on custom or culture.

HELMET REQUIRED BY LAW

Some states, cities and towns have laws or ordinances for helmet use while using motorcycles or bicycles on public roadways and paths. Local ordinances may extend helmet use during certain sports or recreational activities, such as at public skate parks. Use may also be based on age, and usually apply to children. A few states extend helmet use to young adults, for example, people 18 to 20 years old.

PRIVATE PARTY RULES AND CUSTOMS

The owner or operator of a business or property may require you to wear a helmet. Sports and recreational facilities are good examples. When you use a venue, there's usually a written contract somewhere, even if it's in the form of your ticket, a waiver form or equipment rental agreement. Activities include:

- o Indoor sports facilities for hockey, baseball, lacrosse and skating
- o Outdoor venues, such as batting cages, sports fields, stables and ski slopes
- o Watercraft rentals
- o Other outdoor sports including motocross and go-cart courses, and paintball

Helmet use can be based on custom and location, too. In certain sports, helmet use is a given. No one can imagine a football player, at any level, going on the field without a helmet. Motocross racing, car racing, bicycle racing and extreme downhill ski racing are other sports where it would be surprising to see participants *without* helmets.

In other sports, the expectation of helmet use varies, such as in downhill skiing and motorcycle touring. A participant's age and local custom can be factors, too.

CAUSE, EFFECT AND YOUR PERSONAL INJURY CLAIM

Negligence or products liability law may be a factor in your personal injury claim. Your helmet use may or may not be a factor in your case. Whether or not someone wore a helmet at the time of injury may be irrelevant because:

- o Helmet use wasn't related to the injury. An ankle injury in a bike accident likely isn't related to whether or not you were wearing a helmet
- o The accident was so severe that helmet use didn't matter

In both scenarios, your lawyer's strategy may be to keep evidence on whether or not you wore a helmet out of the trial and avoid confusing the jury with a factor that doesn't matter.

PROVING FAULT AND FOLLOWING THE LAW

Proving your case, or your opponent proving a defense, can turn on whether or not you followed the law, rule or contract on helmet use.

You'll want to show the jury you used a helmet as required, and that the defendant is liable for your losses.

The defendant in your case will want to show you didn't use a helmet when required to do so. Your opponent can present a given law, ordinance, rule or

contract as evidence, and your choice to disobey it by choosing *not* to wear a helmet.

Lack of compliance can make the difference in winning your case or the full amount of damages you seek.

REASONABLE PERSON STANDARD

In personal injury law, much turns on what a *reasonable person* would do. Both sides try to prove the actions of the person injured, *and* of the person being sued, were reasonable. One question is whether or not the injured person was *contributorily negligent*. This means the injured person didn't act as reasonable person, contributed to the accident, and has to take some or all responsibility for his or her injuries.

Of course, there are counterarguments. Maybe it wasn't customary to wear a helmet for that sport, or perhaps no helmets were provided or available for use at the facility where the accident happened.

Your personal injury attorney can help you review the facts and the law that applies to your case and find the legal solution that's best for you.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUR ATTORNEY

- o Can a defendant defeat a personal injury claim by showing someone wore a helmet incorrectly or used the wrong type or size?
- o Is the cause of an accident and injuries split into parts, say the plaintiff's failure to wear a motorcycle helmet and the defendant's speeding?
- o Can contributory negligence be used no matter who the plaintiff is? What if a child isn't wearing a helmet?

AS SEEN ON





LEGAL LEADERS



STEVEN J. SCHWARTZAPFEL

Seated: Steven J. Schwartzapfel
 Standing, from left: Nicole J. Kim,
 Michael Reiner, Christopher Holbrook,
 Sachin Gadh, Ben Rabinowitz

SCHWARTZAPFEL LAWYERS P.C.

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 MEDICAL MALPRACTICE AND WRONGFUL DEATH

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injury law firm Schwartzapfel Lawyers has served as a powerful advocate for people who have been seriously injured, maimed, disabled, or killed as a result of someone else's wrongdoing.

SCHWARTZAPFEL LAWYERS P.C. is one of the most prominent and well respected law firms in New York. Steven Schwartzapfel has received numerous awards including Top 100 Trial Lawyers by the American Trial Lawyers Association, Top 100 Trial Lawyers by the National Trial Lawyers Association, Super Lawyers for 7 consecutive years as published in *The New York Times*. Recognized in *Legal Leaders* as a Top Rated Lawyer published by ALM in *The Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Law Journal*, *Newsday*, *The American Lawyer*, *Corporate Counsel* and the *National Law Journal*, Leader in Law in *Newsweek*, Top Legal Eagle in *Long Island Pulse Magazine*, Member of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum, recipient of the 2014 and 2015 National Litigators Award featured on CNN, an A+ rating from The Better Business Bureau. We have helped thousands of clients obtain the money and benefits they deserve. We fight to protect the rights of those who cannot protect themselves.

THE FIRM'S EXPERIENCED LEGAL TEAM—WHICH HANDLES all accidents – auto accidents, construction accidents, workers' compensation, personal injury, medical malpractice and wrongful death on a contingency fee-basis—has changed thousands of lives for the better; and nowhere is that more evident than in the many thank-you letters the firm has received.

"WE GENUINELY CARE ABOUT OUR CLIENTS," SAYS

Steven J. Schwartzapfel, who founded his firm in 1981 after defending accident cases for an insurance company and seeing firsthand the tactics and strategies some insurance companies can engage in to delay and deny legitimate claims.

SCHWARTZAPFEL LAWYERS P.C. and Steven Schwartzapfel have received a Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent® rating, the highest professional and ethical rating awarded by Martindale-Hubbell. Our AV Peer Review Rating® exemplifies that our firm has attained the pinnacle of professional excellence. As such Steven Schwartzapfel has been featured as a Top Rated Lawyer, published by ALM in *New York Magazine*.

WE PRIDE OURSELVES on the fact that over 90% of our clients surveyed would recommend us to their family and friends. Our clients enjoy a comfort and confidence level in our abilities; knowing that we have a proven track record of success and are uniformly recognized as highly experienced and well credentialed possessing the highest levels of skill and integrity. We are passionate about treating our clients like family.

REGARDLESS OF THE TYPE OR SEVERITY OF THE

harms and losses that someone has suffered, Schwartzapfel Lawyers treats each case with the same genuine care, concern, compassion and understanding that have made clients feel like family for over 30 years. For cases involving personal injury, construction accidents, workers' compensation and medical malpractice, Schwartzapfel Lawyers know how to fight...and how to win!

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SUING YOUR LAWYER

Sometimes lawyers make mistakes. If your attorney really screws up your case, you may consider suing for legal malpractice.

BEFORE YOU SUE

If your lawyer didn't represent you properly, and you were harmed in the process, your lawyer might be liable to you for your loss. But before you pursue a lawsuit against your attorney, try these alternatives:

- Discuss fee disputes with your attorney or engage in fee arbitration
- Report potential ethics violations to your state bar association
- Hire another lawyer to repair the damage to an ongoing case

If none of these alternatives brings satisfaction, you may want to consider a legal malpractice claim against your attorney. This type of case is difficult to prove, so you'll want to thoroughly investigate your chances of success before proceeding.

TYPES OF LEGAL MALPRACTICE CLAIMS

Every case is different, but legal malpractice claims usually fall under three categories:

- Negligence
- Breach of fiduciary duty
- Breach of contract

Negligence happens when your attorney fails to use the skill and care normally expected of a competent attorney.

Examples of negligence include:

- Failing to file a lawsuit within the statute of limitations time required under law
- Missing other important deadlines in the case
- Not properly preparing for trial
- Not following court orders

Most legal malpractice claims that end up in court are a result of lawyer negligence.

Breach of fiduciary duty usually occurs when your lawyer has a conflict of interest that harms you in some way. Examples of breach of fiduciary duty include:

- Representing another client to your disadvantage (such as representing another defendant in the same lawsuit)
- Having financial or social ties or troubles that prevent your lawyer from representing you to your best advantage
- Improper sexual advances toward you
- Lying to you about important case information
- Not telling you about settlement offers
- Settling your case for less than it was worth without your approval
- Inappropriately using money belonging to you

Breach of contract cases are brought against lawyers who violate the terms of their specific agreement with their client. Some examples include:

- Failing to file a foreclosure action for a client after agreeing to do so
- Failing to research the registration of certain patents as promised
- Not filing a mechanics' lien for a client after agreeing to do so

PROVING A LEGAL MALPRACTICE CASE

To win a negligence case against a lawyer, you must prove:

- Your lawyer owed you a duty to competently represent you
- He or she made a mistake or otherwise breached the duty owed to you
- Your lawyer's mistake injured or harmed you in a way that can be measured financially

Legal malpractice attorneys usually charge a contingency fee of between 40 and 50 percent of the amount you eventually receive. This is a higher contingency fee than other types of negligence cases, because the legal



malpractice lawyer has to work harder at proving a legal malpractice case.

In order to prove legal malpractice, you must show that:

- You would have won your underlying case if your lawyer had not been incompetent or made a mistake
- You would have collected on a judgment on your underlying case after winning the case

These things are difficult to prove. Also, most legal malpractice cases are tried in court rather than settled. This requires much more time and preparation from your legal malpractice lawyer.

Any legal malpractice lawyer considering taking your case will want to know whether your original lawyer had malpractice insurance to cover your losses. Your new attorney will balance whether your provable losses are high enough to risk investing the time and energy to take the matter to trial. The time limit for filing a legal malpractice case can be as short as one year. So contact a legal malpractice lawyer right away if you think you might have a case against your attorney.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUR ATTORNEY

- Can I refuse to pay my attorney's bill for legal fees if I think he committed malpractice?
- Should I report my attorney's mistake to the state bar association?

AS SEEN ON





Stefia Grossman

GREGORY ANTOLLINO, ESQ.

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and I've had mine, but they can be reduced on appeal, and take years to complete. Sometimes it is better to compromise. On the other hand, I crave a trial, and attended The Trial Lawyer's College in 2003. If you want a trial, you want a lawyer with multiple jury verdicts who also knows his way around an appellate courthouse. By sheer number, I am more experienced in appeals than trials; I practice in federal and state courts in New York. Once, I argued to New York's highest court, where all seven judges ruled in my client's favor.

I am a member of the U.S. Supreme Court Bar, where I've been counsel on two petitions for writs of certiorari.

MY MAIN AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

are employee rights - discrimination and wage claims - and representing victims of police misconduct. When it is the right thing to do, and someone has nowhere else to go, I also represent people harmed by their former lawyers' egregious mistakes.

I GRADUATED IN 1993 FROM NYU LAW,

where I was a member of *Law Review*. The day I feel I really became a lawyer, though, was when I walked away from one of the biggest law firms in the world to form my own. That's when I discovered that I love what I do. You can see my results at www.Antollino.com/victories.

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GREGORY ANTOLLINO

Thanks for hearing me out. Let's talk about what happened to you and we'll see if I can help.



New York Legal Trends

With the future of fantasy sports in limbo, a guilty plea from the Dannemora escapee, and a convicted politician re-elected as mayor in Bridgeport, the New York area is kept on its legal toes.

FANTASY SPORTS WEBSITES BANNED IN NEW YORK

In early November, attorney general Eric T. Schneiderman sought to ban prominent daily fantasy sports websites from operating in the state. The injunction first prohibited FanDuel and DraftKings from operating. It later expanded to include an inquiry into Yahoo's daily fantasy gaming site, which just opened this summer.

The claim targets daily fantasy sports as a violation of the

state's gambling laws. Traditional, season-long fantasy sports are not under investigation. Schneiderman said the daily fantasy sites were "plainly illegal" and "nothing more than a rebranding of sports betting."

FanDuel responded by temporarily suspending play for New York customers. However DraftKings has refused to halt operations, despite being denied a restraining order, which would have allowed the outfit to operate while the legal battle continues.

Continued on page 38

NAPOLI SHKOLNIK PLLC

We offer the depth, diversity and resources of a large, national firm with the responsiveness and individualized approach of a boutique firm. Headquartered in New York City, we have additional office locations in California, Long Island, New Jersey, Illinois, Delaware, Maryland and Florida.

We have the experience and knowledge to handle highly complex cases that require intensive document review. Since we leave no stone unturned, clients and referring attorneys entrust us with a wide range of serious injury claims, including environmental damage, pharmaceutical litigation, product liability, catastrophic injury matters and aviation cases.

We understand our clients. We understand the law. We understand our profound responsibility to uphold and embrace the law by doing our best for clients.

The firm has a proven track record of successfully handling these types of matters over the past 22 years. Notably, our attorneys were part of the teams responsible for the historic \$816 million settlement for injuries sustained by first responders from toxic dust at Ground Zero following the attacks of September 11, 2001, the \$650 million settlement related to the heart drug Pradaxa, the \$100 million settlement involving the birth control device NuvaRing as well as the landmark billion-dollar series of settlements in a major diet drug case.

Our attorneys hold numerous leadership positions (lead or liaison counsel, members of litigation steering committees) in numerous multi-district litigations against companies like General Mills, Inc., Volkswagen Group of America, Inc. and Volkswagen AG as well as UBER Technologies Inc. These

key roles along with regular seminar and conference attendance as panelists enables our attorneys to remain at the forefront of case information and investigation.

They are also sought after speakers and have been interviewed in newspaper and magazine articles around the country on a variety of legal issues including asbestos-related illnesses, stock fraud litigation and consumer class actions.

We are currently representing responders who have developed cancer. Both Marie and Paul Napoli are cancer survivors and are personally invested in these kinds of cases. Together with partner Hunter Shkolnik and their associates, they form an exceptional team that is focused on obtaining extraordinary results.

LEGAL LEADERS



PERSONAL INJURY, ASBESTOS AND PHARMACEUTICAL LITIGATION



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Continued from page 36

Daily fantasy sports websites have become a multi-billion dollar industry in the United States and remain largely unregulated. Players pay an entry fee on each site and can then create fantasy sports teams from real athletes, winning cash prizes based on the performance of those athletes in real games. While most payouts on the sites total close to \$20, some have amounted to six figures.

A 2006 federal law banned online gambling. Yet it has allowed fantasy sites to operate because the games were thought to be based on skill rather than chance. Schneiderman, however, argues that point.

“Here, chance plays just as much of a role than it does in games like poker and blackjack,” he wrote in the filing.

The attorney general also claims that both sites marketed themselves to investors as gambling venues while maintaining close ties to the gambling industry, and that both sites encouraged their employees to play against customers.

Reports by ESPN and The New York Times have found that employees at FanDuel and DraftKings may be using data they can access in order to win on the rival site. ESPN found that DraftKings employees had won close to \$6 million on FanDuel.

An expedited hearing is to take place on November 25th.

DANNEMORA PRISON ESCAPEE PLEADS GUILTY

David Sweat pled guilty in mid-November to two felony counts of escape and one felony count of possessing contraband. Each count comes with a sentence of up to seven years in prison.

Sweat was already serving a life sentence at Clinton Correctional Facility, a maximum-security prison in Dannemora, N.Y., for killing a sheriff's deputy in 2002. Last summer he escaped with another inmate, Richard W. Matt. A three-week manhunt ensued, captivating national media. Matt, who was convicted of killing and dismembering a former employer in 1997, was shot and killed by border control in northern New York during the manhunt. Sweat was shot and captured two days later as he ran for the Canadian border.

Sweat and Matt had the help of Joyce Mitchell, a prison employee, who was romantically involved with Matt. Mitchell smuggled a drill bit and hacksaws into the prison for the inmates. They then used the items to cut through their cell floors and through underground steam pipes. The men ran through the pipe system until they found a manhole. Mitchell has pled guilty to aiding their breakout.

Clinton County District Attorney Andrew J. Wylie stated that his office would seek \$79,841 in restitution from Sweat to cover the cost of repairs to the prison facility.

Wylie also stated that Sweat was prohibited from selling or profiting off the story of his escape under the so-called Son of Sam law.

The convictions will likely lead to a more difficult prison sentence than Sweat previously faced, with fewer privileges and increased solitary confinement.

JOSEPH GANIM WINS BACK MAYORAL SEAT IN BRIDGEPORT

Joseph P. Ganim, the former Democratic mayor of Bridgeport, Conn. who was convicted of corruption in 2003, was recently re-elected to office. After beating incumbent Mayor Bill Finch with a record voter turnout in the Democratic primary, Ganim went on to a victory in the general election, beating the next candidate by a 2 to 1 margin.

The win has many outsiders scratching their heads. Ganim, 56, served as mayor from 1991 to 2003 and resigned after taking hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes. He was found guilty of 16 counts of government corruption, including racketeering, bribery and extortion. He spent seven years in federal prison.

Ganim's campaign gained significant attention for its sheer audacity. Ganim vowed to cut taxes and increase the police force while his opponents promised to create jobs and education opportunities in Bridgeport, which has long trailed the greater New York area with high unemployment and crime.

The police union endorsed Ganim's campaign and he even persuaded a federal investigator who had helped convict him in 2003 to support his run.

Currently, gang violence is crippling parts of the city, a fact that may have increased Ganim's popularity. According to police statistics, shootings this year have increased by 200 percent. In fact, Ganim's campaign office was struck by errant gunfire in October.

Ganim's closest opponent, Mary-Jane Foster, current vice president of the University of Bridgeport, responded to his campaign victory with disbelief. Foster had requested that the state send monitors to each polling place to watch for suspicious behavior before the election.

“I couldn't be more surprised,” Ms. Foster told The New York Times, before adding that voters were “clearly willing to give Joe Ganim a second chance.”

The Democratic party leader in Connecticut, Governor Dannel P. Malloy, refused to endorse Ganim during his campaign.

On the night of his victory, Ganim spoke to his supporters at a local restaurant: “Tonight we not only made history, we've defined a new course for this great city. Some will call this a comeback story, but for me, this is a city I feel I never left.”



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EXCELLENCE IN PERSONAL INJURY AND MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

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catastrophic accidents and serious personal injury, Godosky & Gentile, P.C. has earned a reputation for obtaining justice and outstanding results on behalf of our clients. Founded by internationally renowned trial lawyers Richard Godosky and Anthony Gentile, we are a boutique litigation firm dedicated to our clients. Our quality representation has led to numerous, significant and record-setting multimillion-dollar recoveries in cases of medical malpractice, construction accidents, automobile accidents and complex products liability.

WITH EIGHT ATTORNEYS, A PROFESSIONAL

support staff including paralegals and a full-time investigator, Godosky & Gentile is recognized as among the best in the profession. Six lawyers have achieved the highest rating as AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell. Our attorneys have also been honored in "Best Lawyers in America," "Who's Who in American Law," and "New York Super Lawyers." The firm's trial skills and history of success

has led *U.S. News & World Report* to name Godosky & Gentile P.C. to their "Best Law Firms" list with a Tier One national ranking. In 2015, the firm was recognized by the *National Law Journal* as having one of the "Top Ten" highest verdicts in New York (*Sims v. City of NY*), and by the *New York Law Journal* for a "Top Ten" settlement in the state (*Labatto v. Genting, et. al.*). Many of our lawyers have been asked to lecture at law schools and bar associations throughout the country.

IN ADDITION TO PERSONAL INJURY,

Godosky & Gentile handles a variety of civil and commercial disputes for clients that range from real estate developers to *Fortune* 500® companies. Lawyers and judges throughout the state turn to Godosky & Gentile when they themselves need legal representation. If you are looking for a law firm with a proven history of success, with the experience and personal attention you deserve, WELCOME TO GODOSKY & GENTILE, P.C.

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THE GO-TO ADVOCATE

Benedict Morelli continues to attract the most high-profile clients and cases

Over his more than 35 years as a trial lawyer, Benedict Morelli has built a go-to practice for complex, high-profile litigation. So it should come as no surprise that when comedian Tracy Morgan suffered catastrophic injuries in an accident on the New Jersey Turnpike caused by a Wal-Mart tractor-trailer, he turned to Morelli and his firm to represent him in the ensuing lawsuit.

"This was a case against one of the largest companies in the world, and it involved intense media scrutiny," Morelli says. "But we have a history of taking on powerful adversaries in high-profile matters, and we've never shied away from difficult cases that we believe are meritorious."

Morelli represented Morgan and five other plaintiffs in the resulting lawsuit against Wal-Mart, and just 10 months after the accident secured a confidential settlement for his clients, with Wal-Mart accepting full responsibility for the tragedy. Morelli is currently representing Eugenie Bouchard in a personal injury case against the United States Tennis Association and the USTA National Tennis Center. He is also representing multiple clients affected by the May 2015 Amtrak train crash in Philadelphia, including a well-known chef and a retired NYPD lieutenant.

"I've been handling plaintiffs' litigation for a while now, and the reason I haven't stopped is because it's rewarding when you can help someone who is struggling," Morelli says. "These may be complex, challenging matters, but working hard is never a negative if you believe in what you're doing and you believe that what you're doing is making a difference,"

Hard work has defined Morelli's career since his early days as a law clerk at a personal injury law firm in the 1970s. After being admitted to the New York State Bar in 1977, he quickly worked his way up the ranks, becoming a partner at the firm in 1981 and senior partner in 1990.

"I've had success in my practice because I've always taken my work seriously," says Morelli, a past president of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association who has long been AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell®. "Ultimately, your work and how you approach it defines you, and since the beginning of my career I've been committed to serving as a trusted advocate for my clients."

In 1998, Morelli founded his own firm to better represent his vision of how trial law should be practiced: "I wanted to give a strong voice to people who had been seriously injured, whether physically, emotionally, or financially; and to do that, I knew the firm had to be client-centered and results-oriented, with the knowledge and experience to get the job done."

Morelli and his firm have held fast to that vision, even as they have expanded into new practice areas. The result is a law firm that is known nationwide for its tenacious advocacy in litigation ranging from employment discrimination, civil rights, and complex product liability matters to auto accidents, labor law, and commercial cases. "We will not rest until we achieve the best possible results for our clients, and that's reflected in our track record," Morelli says.



Stella Grossman

Morelli's settlements, which are often confidential, have been record breaking both in terms of the amounts received and the brief time taken to arrive at a resolution. In addition, Morelli has obtained a number of precedent-setting verdicts over his career: In 1995, he achieved a \$40 million medical malpractice verdict that was featured in the National Law Journal as one of the top ten verdicts in the United States; in 2010, as counsel in a polio vaccine case in Staten Island, NY, he secured a \$22.5 million verdict that remains the largest vaccine verdict in U.S. history; and, in 2011, Morelli obtained a \$95 million verdict in a sexual harassment trial in the Southern District of Illinois Federal Court—the largest single-plaintiff sexual harassment verdict in U.S. history.

Most recently, Morelli secured a \$62 million verdict on behalf of an injured construction worker, which is believed to be the largest personal injury verdict for a single plaintiff in the history of the Queens County Supreme Court.

"It is very gratifying when a jury comes back in your client's favor, because while we can't change what happened to them, we can get them the justice they deserve," says Morelli of these results.

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A CULTURE OF COLLABORATION

Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder remains at the forefront of personal injury and medical malpractice law through its dynamic approach to its cases.

Since its founding in 1936, Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder has, with good reason, been recognized as one of the leading trial firms in the country.

The firm has served as an advocate for individuals and families injured by the medical profession, powerful organizations and large corporations throughout its 79 years in practice; and through its efforts, Koskoff has grown to where it now has multiple offices in Connecticut, as well as an unprecedented track record of personal injury verdicts.

Of the top ten personal injury verdicts in Connecticut, Koskoff lawyers have won six, including the largest medical malpractice judgment in state history—a \$58.6 million jury award for a family whose son developed severe cerebral palsy after a delayed caesarean section.

In March 2013, the firm also secured the largest non-medical malpractice personal injury verdict in Connecticut history, when partner Antonio Ponvert won a \$41.7 million award for a girl who contracted tick-borne encephalitis while on a school trip in China.

Reflecting on this success, senior partner Michael Koskoff—whose father, legendary trial lawyer Theodore I. Koskoff, founded the firm—observes, “My father used to say, ‘Before you can be a genius in the courtroom, you have to be a drudge in the office,’ and if there’s one defining trait for this firm, it would be our overall dedication to our clients; it truly sets us apart.”

As part of its client commitment, the firm takes nearly all of its cases on a contingent fee basis, where the firm does not collect payment until it wins a judgment. Joshua Koskoff, who represents the third generation of Koskoffs at the firm, notes that this approach is inexorably tied to the firm’s origins as a family firm.

“While we have been in practice for nearly eight decades, that feeling of family remains, both in how we interact with one another and in how we treat clients,” Josh Koskoff says. “When

“Our firm culture is one of caring, collaboration and cooperation.”

- JIM HORWITZ

clients enter our firm, every lawyer and staff person in the office is committed to seeing that they are taken care of, not just the attorneys working on their case.”

“Our firm culture is one of caring, collaboration and cooperation,” adds managing partner Jim Horwitz. “We work together to develop the themes and strategies for handling



cases, and it’s because of our emphasis on teamwork that we continue to succeed in some of the most challenging medical malpractice, products liability, catastrophic personal injury, and civil rights cases in the country.”

Recently, Josh Koskoff and partner Sean McElligott achieved an \$11.2 million recovery in a medical malpractice case where the wrong medication was administered in the ER, leaving the patient in a permanent vegetative state. The firm also obtained a \$12.3 million jury award in September 2014 for the family of a young girl who drowned in the indoor pool at Waterbury’s Boys and Girls Club in 2008. Among its recent high-profile cases, the firm served on the team suing over the death of singer-songwriter Michael Jackson in California.

“When we take on cases involving such profound injuries we know that it’s very likely they will be tried before a jury and that the cases will require considerable resources to get justice for our clients,” says Kathleen Nastri, who along with Bill Bloss, represented the family of the young girl who drowned. “It’s therefore very reassuring to know that we’re backed by a firm with both the economic and intellectual resources to fight these battles.”

Indeed, it’s because of these resources that the firm was able to make history in 2010, when its client, the family of a man who died of mouth cancer at age 42, won the first and only wrongful death settlement on record from a chewing tobacco company.

“Having practiced at this firm for almost 30 years now, I can say that it’s truly an extraordinary place to work,” Horwitz observes. “Everyone here is committed to making a difference, and it’s rewarding to see how that idealism has not diminished in the least in all the time I’ve been working here.”

BURGER & GREEN, LLP

CHILD CUSTODY, DIVORCE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, FAMILY,
RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE, INTERNATIONAL CUSTODY MATTERS

As the founders of Burger & Green, LLP, Barbara Burger and Nancy Green have combined their unique backgrounds and experience to provide clients from New York and abroad with high-quality family law services.

"Because our clients have varying backgrounds, professions, and income levels, no two cases are ever the same, and it helps that we bring different perspectives to our practice," says Burger, who has been handling family law and matrimonial issues for the past 40 years. "It allows us to really custom-tailor our approach to resolving their matters."

Burger and Green have successfully handled a range of family law issues over their careers, and they now obtain much of their work through referrals from past clients and other lawyers. Their practice concentrates on divorce, equitable distribution, spousal support, child custody, child support, prenuptial and postnuptial agreements, and international child abduction (Hague) cases. They also offer real estate transaction services for buyers and sellers in residential and commercial real estate closings, and they work closely with outside counsel (attorneys Germana F. Giordano and Rosa Marzano) with regard to criminal and corporate matters.

"The matters we handle, such as divorce and child custody, go to the very essence of our clients' lives, so we feel a tremendous responsibility to realize their goals," says Green, who began practicing with Burger in 1995 and was recently listed in *Super Lawyers*. "We recognize that this is an emotional time for our clients, and we therefore strive to make the process as manageable as possible."



From Left: Rosa Marzano (Outside Counsel);
Barbara Burger (Partner); Nancy M. Green
(Partner); Germana F. Giordano (Outside Counsel)

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Bashian & Farber, LLP, is a law firm with established experience in a wide range of practice areas, including trust and estate planning, administration and litigation; asset preservation trusts; business transactions and litigation; matrimonial and family law including related criminal law; real estate transactions; elder law and guardianship litigation; and, appellate law.

"We bring practical knowledge and relevant experience to the legal issues that matter the most for our clients," notes Managing Partner Gary Bashian.

Bashian, a past President of the Westchester County Bar Association who has a wealth of experience in the practice areas, is joined by Partners Irving Farber and James Hyer, who are similarly qualified. Farber has litigated hundreds of cases to verdict, developing a reputation at trial for his expertise in multiple types of civil litigation and appeals. Hyer has successfully assisted clients in both litigated and transactional matters, while emerging as a leader in the profession by serving as a member on the New York State House of Delegates and as a Director of the Westchester County Bar Association.

"Given the experience and qualifications of our attorneys, clients can be confident that every aspect of their representation will be individually tailored to their unique needs in a dedicated, professional and personal way," Bashian says.

"The key to our success," Hyer adds, "is that as a mid-sized firm, we combine the resources of a large firm with the responsiveness and personal attention you would expect from a smaller office, all to the benefit of our clients."

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BOUKLAS & ASSOCIATES PLLC

ESTATE PLANNING, TRUSTS AND ESTATES, WILLS AND PROBATE

In the two decades that Philip Bouklas has been handling wills, trusts and estates, his firm, Bouklas & Associates, has earned an AV Preeminent® rating from Martindale-Hubbell®—the highest rating for legal ability and ethical standards—by bringing personal attention to its clients' matters.

"Instead of taking an assembly-line approach to our practice, we tailor every document to our clients' individual needs," says Bouklas. "Ultimately, these are very personal matters, and it's important that clients know that when they speak up, they will be heard."

While many trusts and estates firms focus on either estate administration and litigation or estate planning, Bouklas & Associates has the resources and experienced attorneys to provide comprehensive services in both areas, including a litigation team that can expertly guide clients through contested trust and estate matters.

As a result of this consummate expertise, the firm's clientele ranges from first-time clients with estate planning needs to long-term clients with complex issues relating to the transfer of wealth from one generation to the next.

"I've focused exclusively in this field since the first day of my career, and although it's a challenging area, it's a rewarding one, because it provides me with the opportunity to help people," Bouklas says. "Over the years, I've been able to form many lasting bonds with my clients, and to me, that's one of the most gratifying aspects of this practice."

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From Left: Sasha H. Herzig, Philip V. Bouklas,
Sophia M. Tsantes, Alex Vera

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BUSINESS & CORPORATE LAW, COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE AND COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

Celebrating 35 years of successfully closing hundreds of transactions for its business clients, the Long Island-based Law Offices of Andrew Presberg, P.C. has been hailed as "the small firm with big results".

This AV rated® boutique firm is known for and continually gets high marks for its handling of primarily complex commercial real estate, corporate and business transactions with an emphasis on matters involving IDA, economic development and related financial incentives for clients acquiring, relocating, expanding, leasing, selling or developing real property for their businesses.

"We work very closely with various Industrial Development Agencies, lenders, commercial brokers, government agencies, the SBA and other agencies to help package a financing and development product for our clients that encompasses a myriad of economic development and financial incentives" says Andrew Presberg, managing member of the firm. Presberg pointed out that their close contacts, experience and relationships with these agencies and banks give them the ability to maximize available benefits for their clients involved in all size real estate projects.

As an adjunct to the firm's commercial real estate practice, the firm is segmented into two other primary practice areas, Business & Commercial Law and Commercial Litigation. These practice areas naturally feed from what otherwise may have been a single real estate transaction. Presberg added: "If we've done the right job for our client in a typical commercial realty transaction, we tend to keep the client for years to come and grow alongside them because we also have the experience and knowledge to deal with all of their day to day corporate and commercial matters, contract work, business sales, leasing, acquisitions, partnership, employment matters, as well as the prosecution and defense of complex commercial litigation matters throughout Long Island and the metropolitan New York area."

Andrew Presberg is a director and executive board member of the Long Island Business Development Council, President of Bi-County Development Corp., a not-for-profit local development corporation and also represents several commercial lending institutions for the closing of SBA section 504 and 7A business & real estate loans throughout Long Island and the boroughs of New York.



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Mr. Wigdor has been selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* since 2008 and was selected one of the *Top 100 Trial Lawyers* by the *National Trial Lawyers*, *American Society of Legal Advocates* and the *American Academy of Trial Attorneys*.

ARYE, LUSTIG & SASSOWER, P.C.

PERSONAL INJURY, CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENTS, MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

As Arye, Lustig & Sassower, P.C. celebrates its 50th anniversary, the firm continues to be recognized as one of the top personal injury law firms in New York, with a record of multimillion-dollar results that few others can match.

"We're proud of our reputation for being honorable, straight-shooting lawyers," says managing partner Mitchell J. Sassower, who, along with senior trial attorney D. Carl Lustig III, serves on the board of directors of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association and has been AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell® and regularly included in *New York Super Lawyers*. "Whether we're in the courtroom on trial or the appellate court on appeal, we serve as true advocates for our clients."

While the firm handles all types of personal injury cases, it is particularly well known for its expertise in the highly specialized area of construction accident claims. In addition to being retained directly by injured construction workers and their families, Sassower and Lustig are often sought out by other lawyers who require skilled and experienced construction law attorneys to handle their cases.

"We're known for our experience and knowledge, as well as our commitment to bringing individual attention and the full force and intellect of the firm to bear on our clients' cases," says Lustig, a member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum and the American Board of Trial Advocates who has been included in *The Best Lawyers in America* and honored by The National Trial Lawyers as one of the top 100 trial lawyers in the state.



From Left: Mitchell J. Sassower and D. Carl Lustig III

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PAUL B. WEITZ & ASSOCIATES

PERSONAL INJURY LITIGATION

PAUL B. WEITZ & ASSOCIATES IS A PREMIER personal injury law firm that handles major complex litigation in New York City and its outer boroughs. "No case is too complicated for us," says managing partner Paul B. Weitz. "We put the necessary time and money into every case to get the best results for our clients."

THE FIRM HAS A TRADITION OF PROVIDING expert representation and personalized service, dating back to the early 1970s when the firm began as Schneider, Kleinick & Weitz. Since then, the firm has established a proven record of more than 200 cases or settlements in excess of \$1 million.

ATTORNEYS AT THE FIRM ARE EXPERIENCED IN all types of catastrophic personal injury cases, including construction and workplace accidents, car and truck accidents, medical malpractice, wrongful death, municipal liability, and premises liability. Since 2007, they have achieved a number of notable settlements: \$20 million for a 26-year-old worker catastrophically injured in a construction accident; \$16 million for a 23-year-old man who fell from a rock wall after his safety belt broke; \$14 million for a worker who was injured after a platform collapsed while he was laying cable; and \$11 million for a 65-year-old woman who was injured when she fell through a gap between a Long Island Rail Road train and the platform.

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ABOVE ALL, THE FIRM'S ATTORNEYS STRIVE TO help clients through their recovery process, which often requires extensive medical treatment and costly rehabilitation. "Though we handle some of the largest cases, we're still able to provide all of our clients with the personal attention they need," Weitz says. "I make sure that I'm available to speak to all of my clients at any time."

THE FIRM IS DEDICATED TO REALIZING ITS CLIENTS' goals both inside and outside of the courtroom. For example, in a case where a mother's only son was killed by a drunk driver, the firm worked with the woman to strengthen New York laws that punish drunk drivers who have committed vehicular assault or manslaughter. These efforts resulted in VaSean's Law, which has made it easier for district attorneys to prosecute drunk drivers on those charges. "If a client has an objective that goes beyond a monetary result, we will work tirelessly to achieve that for them," Weitz notes.

WEITZ HAS BEEN SELECTED FOR INCLUSION IN the *Best Lawyers in America* since 2001 and has served as president of the New York Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He is considered an expert in the personal injury field, and frequently lectures on the subject before a number of bar associations.



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Seated, from left: Bruce G. Habian, John L.A. Lyddane, Anthony M. Sola, Kenneth R. Larywon, Peter T. Crean.

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Founded in 1993, Lewis Johs has become one of the most distinguished litigation firms in the region through the skill and civility of its practice. As a result, Lewis Johs has earned the respect of judges, colleagues, clients and opponents. As Fred Johs, one of the firm's founding partners notes: "It's rewarding to see the firm's success over the years, because it shows that nice guys don't finish last. Our opponents are our adversaries, not our enemies."

Lewis Johs has developed steadily over the past two decades, expanding from four to more than 60 lawyers. Along the way, the firm has gained a reputation for its trial expertise. "Though we first try to resolve our cases, if we can't we are always prepared to proceed to trial," Lewis says. "Our adversaries know this, and we are therefore in a better position to secure effective outcomes for our clients."

Among its practice areas, Lewis Johs handles medical malpractice, transportation, construction/labor, product liability, and environmental litigation. The firm has continued to broaden the scope of its services, with its education group – a team dedicated to securing individualized educational services for students with learning disabilities, the estates and trusts group, and real estate group all experiencing rapid growth in recent years.



From Left: Frederick C. Johs, William J. Lewis

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COMMERCIAL AND BANKRUPTCY LITIGATION

The Law Offices of Douglas T. Tabachnik, P.C. is a niche legal practice, focusing on the most complicated bankruptcy issues on behalf of businesses and individuals in New York and New Jersey. With his more than 35 years of legal experience, Douglas T. Tabachnik is regularly involved in all aspects of complex commercial bankruptcy cases. Mr. Tabachnik is only one of a handful of attorneys in either New York or New Jersey who has been certified as an expert in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification* (since 2007).

Mr. Tabachnik has received an AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rating by Martindale-Hubbell® every year since 2000. Mr. Tabachnik has also been selected to the New Jersey Super Lawyers® list every year since 2007, a peer rating that includes only the top five percent of lawyers in the state, as determined by Super Lawyers.

For the last 10 years, Mr. Tabachnik has chaired the Bankruptcy Litigation Committee, and has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Commercial and Federal Litigation Section of the New York State Bar Association. He has appeared on panels for the New York County Lawyers' Association, the New York State Bar Association, the New Jersey State Bar Association, and the National Business Institute.

With nearly a dozen reported decisions to his credit, Mr. Tabachnik has been at the cutting edge of developing law in the bankruptcy arena for over three decades. Among Mr. Tabachnik's recent accomplishments: securing the rights of trademark licensees in the *Crumbs Bake Shop* case and, separately, a two million dollar recovery in a long running fraudulent conveyance case in New York.

*The American Board of Certification is a nonprofit organization sponsored by the American Bankruptcy Institute and the Commercial Law League of America, and accredited by the American Bar Association. See www.abcworld.org.



Photo Courtesy Judith Rae

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Since 1975, Kantrowitz Goldhamer & Graifman, PC has provided large-firm, full-service, high-quality legal work for a broad range of clients with a wide variety of legal problems. Forty years later, the firm remains "big enough to do it all, and small enough to care."

KGG Partners Barry Kantrowitz, Paul Goldhamer and Gary Graifman, are all recognized as Super Lawyers honorees, and lead an AV rated®, multistate team of attorneys that includes talented litigators, authors, lecturers, and TV and radio hosts. The firm's reputation as one of the premier firms in the northern New York City suburbs has grown to include national class actions and multistate litigation. The firm's core practice of negligence and personal injury; divorce and family law; wills, trusts and estates; real estate; and corporate law now also includes employment law matters for both employers and employees.

RESULTS-ORIENTED For more than 40 years, the firm's dedicated attorneys have fought for the best possible results for clients. Outstanding recoveries—including a 2015 jury verdict of \$1.4 million for podiatric malpractice—and nationwide class action settlements against vehicle manufacturers for defective products demonstrate the firm's commitment to its clients that "We Don't Back Down." Due to the firm's size and location, clients benefit from outstanding experience and skill, often at fees lower than the firm's Manhattan counterparts.



From Left: Barry S. Kantrowitz, Randy J. Perlmutter, Paul B. Goldhamer
Seated: Gary S. Graifman

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DIVORCE: STOCKS AND CLOSELY HELD CORPORATIONS

Corporate **stocks** and other assets of **closely held corporations** are often the subject of dispute in a divorce, especially if the corporation provided most of the income for the family. Many states have laws dealing with the distribution of interests in closely held corporations in a divorce. Courts also consider other factors in deciding how to distribute these assets.

STATE LAWS

Some states have laws that tell the courts how to treat closely held corporations in a divorce. For example,

- Florida, New York and North Carolina direct the court to consider the need to allow one spouse to retain an interest in a business free from any claim or interference by the other party.
- West Virginia law directs the court to give preference to the retention of ownership interests, and to award the larger ownership interest to the party having the closer involvement in the operation of the business, or to the party having the greater

dependency on the business for income needed to meet support obligations.

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

In determining how to dispose of a closely held business, the court first considers whether one or both spouses have contributed to the success of the business. For example, if a closely held corporation grew without any contribution from the husband, the wife may be awarded the husband's one-half share of the corporation.

Courts may leave the spouses as joint owners of a family business where both spouses worked in the business and most of the funds used to establish and operate the business came from joint assets.

Spouses who try to keep a closely held business but protest a cash award to the other spouse often end up with co-ownership. If the spouse seeking to keep the business claims that the stock is worthless or that he or she cannot afford to buy the other spouse out, the court can divide the stock in kind.

Divisions in kind also can occur if:



- The stock is for a public corporation and ownership is not necessary for the spouse's position with the corporation
- One of the spouses helped run the business without compensation during the marriage

If the court makes a joint award of business assets or closely held corporate stock, the court often provides one or both spouses with an option to buy the assets or stock if the other spouse decides to sell them.

NO JOINT OWNERSHIP

Joint ownership is inappropriate in many cases. If joint ownership will have an adverse affect on the management of a closely held corporation, all of the stock may be awarded to one spouse. The other spouse should be awarded a sufficient share of the marital assets to offset the award of the business to the other spouse.

If one spouse's participation in the business is critical to the success of the business and that spouse would refuse to participate in the business if it was jointly owned by the spouses after marriage, joint ownership is not feasible. One spouse may be awarded the business, and the other spouse should receive a cash award.

PAYMENT ORDERS

Finally, if the corporation has not been used to defraud the other spouse or for some other improper purpose, the court may not direct that payments be made from the corporation, rather than personal income, since the corporation is not a party to the divorce action.

ROBERT G. SMITH, PLLC

Family Law

Robert G. Smith is nationally recognized as a talented litigator and negotiator in the field of family law, for celebrities, entrepreneurs and professionals, in high-net-worth divorces, as well as contested child custody cases. His state-of-the-art law firm, located at 59th Street and Park Avenue in midtown Manhattan, serves a client base from New York City to Long Island and the Hudson Valley.

Strategically managing media attention in high-profile cases is important, especially when there are children and sensitive business relationships in the equation.

Not every family law assignment is high profile, but every one of them has the potential to extract catastrophic emotional and financial costs. Successful completion of the assignment requires the lawyer's skills and experience in a broad array of disciplines: forensic mental health, forensic accounting, commercial law, criminal law, and above all, the courtroom talents and presence to obtain respect from the lawyers and judges and results for the clients.

Over the past 35 years, Robert Smith has earned that respect and acquired unsurpassed expertise, litigating hundreds of family law cases, and settling hundreds more. He has been recognized as a *SuperLawyer*, awarded to the top five percent of the lawyers in the state; the highest (AV®) professional ratings from Martindale-Hubbell® in professionalism and ethics; and the highest (5 out of 5) ratings from Lawyers.com. He is a member of the New York State Bar Association, the New York County Lawyers Association and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. He is also court qualified as a neutral evaluator for matrimonial cases and a court-approved lawyer for children in the New York County Supreme Court.

Robert Smith has appeared on national television as a commentator over 100 times. He has also been honored to lecture to other lawyers. Of greater importance is the confidence, trust and loyalty of many satisfied clients.

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For more information about Robert G. Smith's family law practice please visit our website: www.rgsmith.com



AS SEEN ON



FRIEDMAN & FRIEDMAN, ATTORNEYS AT LAW

CHILD CUSTODY, DIVORCE, FAMILY, FATHERS RIGHTS

For 35 years, Sari Friedman has remained at the forefront of matrimonial and family law thanks to her knowledge and experience in the field and her leadership on novel divorce matters. In particular, Friedman is known as a fierce proponent of equal rights for both genders in the areas of child custody and economic parity and recognition.

With regard to custody and parenting, Friedman has long advocated for fathers' rights, serving as general counsel of the Fathers' Rights Association of New York State and Long Island for the past 25 years. She has also represented a vast number of women who appreciate her firm's zealous advocacy and personalized approach. And recently, she has been handling emerging custody issues relating to same-sex divorce.

Reflecting her influence in the bar, Friedman has been AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell®, and included in New York Metro Super Lawyers, Who's Who in American Law, Rue Ratings' Best Attorneys of America, National Advocates' Top 100 Lawyers (Matrimonial & Family Law), and *New York* magazine's Women Leaders in the Law section. In 2012, she also received the *Long Island Business News*' Leadership in Law Award.

Friedman is joined as a partner at the firm by her daughter Andrea, who has built her own reputation for aggressive yet compassionate advocacy. In 2014, Andrea was named to the Long Island Business News' Ones to Watch in Law list, and recently she was selected along with Friedman as a Top Attorney in North America by Who's Who. "Andrea is a quick study," Friedman notes, "and that allows her to go toe-to-toe with attorneys who have been practicing for much longer."



From Left: Andrea B. Friedman and Sari M. Friedman

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GARY A. ZUCKER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

PERSONAL INJURY, MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

Over the past three decades, Gary Zucker has distinguished himself as one of the most committed and professional personal injury and medical malpractice attorneys in New York City.

Mr. Zucker has been given an AV Preeminent® rating by Martindale-Hubbell, the organization's highest rating for professional excellence, based on voting by his peers. In addition, Mr. Zucker has been selected to the 2015 edition of New York Super Lawyers and the *New York Law Journal* Motor Vehicle Verdicts and Settlements Hall of Fame.

Mr. Zucker handles cases in all five boroughs of New York City, as well as in the surrounding counties. The firm has a track record of consistent success in wrongful death, medical malpractice, and personal injury cases, including those involving automobile accidents, premises liability, defective products and construction accidents.

Among its significant recoveries, the firm obtained a verdict of \$10.5 million for a child who suffered severe brain injury due to obstetrical malpractice. It also secured a \$6 million settlement for the death of a 32-year-old married plumber, which was the largest reported settlement in New York in 2014 for injury or death suffered by a passenger in a motor vehicle accident.



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Saltzman Chetkof & Rosenberg LLP

Client Support • Litigation • Resolution • Appellate Advocacy

Saltzman Chetkof & Rosenberg LLP is determined to obtain the maximum results whether by way of creative settlement or litigation, with a commitment to treat clients with compassion and respect, and permitting our clients to leave the family law process with their dignity intact. SCR LLP is listed among U.S. News & World Report's "Best Lawyers" as a Tier I law firm in Family Law.

The firm represents clients throughout the Long Island-New York City metropolitan area in a wide variety of family and matrimonial law proceedings.

Partner, Michael Chetkof, a well respected trial litigator, continues to be selected as a New York "Super Lawyer" in family law and is "AV Preeminent" peer-review rated by Martindale-Hubbell, the highest available for legal ability and ethics. Michael is also trained in Collaborative Law and serves as a Court Examiner in Guardianship matters. He is a member of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, the New York State Bar Association Family Law Section, and the Matrimonial Law Committees of the Nassau and Suffolk County Bar Associations.

Partner, Lee Rosenberg, is a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. He serves on both the AAML National and NY State Chapter boards as well as on the executive committee of the NY State Bar Association's Family Law Section. Former Chair of the Nassau County Bar Association Matrimonial Law Committee, Lee is a litigator and appellate counsel who continues to be listed in "Best Lawyers in America,"



and as a New York "Super Lawyer" in family law. He is "AV Preeminent" peer-rated by Martindale-Hubbell. Lee was also trained in divorce mediation and serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the NY State Bar Association's *Family Law Review*.

Senior Associate, Allyson D. Burger, is a Super Lawyer "Rising Star," who previously worked for several well-known boutique matrimonial firms in Manhattan and on Long Island assisting in all aspects of matrimonial and family law including high net worth cases and on father's rights, domestic violence and same-sex relationship issues. Ally serves as Chair of the ABA Young Lawyers Division's Children and the Law Committee and is active in many state and local family law bar associations, including the NY Family Law American Inn of Court. She has also been published as an author in the NY State Bar Association's *Family Law Review*.

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LIFE INSURANCE AS AN ESTATE PLANNING TOOL

Your first answer if asked about the use and purpose of life insurance is to replace the income your family depends on if you die. A policy can do more, though, and can be an important element in your larger estate plan. Life insurance can provide income and a base for family wealth.

Learn about the types of life insurance policies available, what you have and may think about buying and give those policies a place in your estate plan.

LIFE INSURANCE TYPES

TERM LIFE

This policy is designed and well-suited to provide a large death benefit for the lowest premium possible. You select the "term" the policy covers, such as 5, 10 or 20 years, and pay premiums on a schedule, such as monthly or annually.

Your policy may include an option for you to extend the policy's coverage past the end of the term, but the rate and renewal term may differ. For example, you may be able to extend coverage on a yearly basis and the annual premium will likely be higher. You may want to use this feature type if your policy ends soon, but you want coverage for a while longer, such as until a child completes college.

Term life insurance is attractive because you can buy what you need. Maybe you only need to insure against your death for the next 10 years, due to your stage of life and financial situation. Rates can vary, so it's worth your while to shop and buy exactly what you need.

WHOLE LIFE

Whole life insurance offers a death benefit and an investment component. The policy stays in force as long as the premiums are paid, with the goal for the investment portion of the policy's value to cover the premiums. It's a permanent policy, intended to stay in force for your lifetime. Cash value in a whole life policy builds over time, and grows tax-deferred. Some policies allow the payment of a lump-sum premium, without further premium payments as long as the policy's cash value grows to cover that expense.

Another "permanent" life insurance type is a universal policy. Here, you're given options for how much and how often you pay premiums, and changes in the death benefit amount are possible.

VARIABLE LIFE POLICIES

A variable life insurance policy is another whole life insurance type. The insured can make investment choices, and shares in the risk and reward of investments of premium dollars.

DAVID N. ADLER, ESQ.

TRUSTS & ESTATES, TAXATION,
ESTATE LAW PLANNING

David N. Adler has maintained a prominent estates, wills and trusts practice for over 25 years with particular emphasis on interacting directly with clients in resolving their estate problems. His practice has encompassed all facets of probate and administration proceedings, preparation of wills and trusts, transfer tax planning and kinship. He has served as President of the Queens County Bar Association, and for the past 20 years has served as Chairman of its Trusts and Estates Section. Mr. Adler has hosted a show on Public Television entitled "Planning your Estate." Additionally, Mr. Adler's participation on the New York State Bar Association's Executive Committee for Trusts and Estates is further evidence of his commitment to his chosen field.

Mr. Adler has written numerous articles encompassing various aspects of estates practice, and has been published in *The New York State Bar Journal*, *The New York Law Journal*, and *The Queens Bar Bulletin*. His work in the area of kinship has incorporated extensive genealogical research in the representation of resident and foreign individuals. Mr. Adler remains proud of his AV Preeminent® rating by Martindale-Hubbell® and has also been selected for inclusion in Who's Who in American Law.

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Returns on the investment component of the policy can be more volatile. In contrast to a traditional whole life policy, features such as borrowing against policy cash value aren't available.

OWNERSHIP OF POLICIES, BENEFIT PAYMENTS AND SETTLING YOUR ESTATE

An insurance policy has an owner, an insured and a beneficiary. A single person may have more than one role in a policy's parts. For example, you may own a policy on your life and your child is the beneficiary.

The death benefit payment is made to the beneficiary, and isn't part of your estate that is settled through a probate court. Probate is the process of settling a deceased person's affairs; most but not all property types pass through the probate process. Probate is often avoided due to the time and expense involved.

However, life insurance proceeds are often included in another important "estate" created at your death – your estate for federal and state estate and transfer tax purposes. If the value of a life insurance death benefit is added to your estate, there may be taxes to pay. Think you're not "rich" enough to worry about it? Assets such as high-value insurance policies and your home can make these taxes a real concern

PLANNING FOR BEST USE OF YOUR INSURANCE

No matter what policy type you choose, compared to the premium payment, life insurance can provide a sizeable return. The payout can provide a crucial pool of funds for a family that's lost a parent-breadwinner or provide the means to manage business concerns, such as buying out the shares of a deceased partner. Insurance proceeds can free up other assets and serve as a key element in your estate plan.

Fortunately, tax laws provide the means to avoid inclusion of life insurance benefits in your taxable estate through a life **insurance trust** or transferring ownership of your policy to someone else. Essentially, if you don't own or have control over a policy, you won't own it for estate tax purposes.

An estate planning attorney can help you set up insurance trusts or arrange changing ownership of your policies. Meeting tax law requirements can be complex, so seeking professional help is usually the best option.

Moving forward, you can still provide premiums payments through annual gifts, and there's no tax impact if the amount falls within the annual exclusion amount. Gifts under the annual exclusion amount aren't taxed, and there's no limit on the number of donees you can give gifts to. The annual exclusion for 2009 was set at \$13,000.

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Outten & Golden LLP enjoys a strong national reputation for representing employees, executives and partners in all areas of employment law. From representing senior executives in contract negotiations, to protecting individuals' civil rights in the workplace, to combating worker exploitation and systemic discrimination in class action and impact litigation, Outten & Golden LLP is focused solely on the field of employment law. We take great pride in our innovative approach to the practice of law and our firm's focus on protecting and promoting employee rights.

Outten & Golden has nine practice groups: Executives & Professionals, Financial Services, Sexual Harassment & Sex Discrimination, Family Responsibilities & Disabilities Discrimination, Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer Workplace Rights, Discrimination & Retaliation, Whistleblower Retaliation, Class & Collective Actions, and WARN Act.

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Left, top to bottom: Wayne N. Outten, Kathleen Peratis, Wendi S. Lazar, Paul Mollica. Right, top to bottom: Laurence S. Moy, Jack A. Raisner, Lewis M. Steel, Darinley D. Stewart.



RONEMUS & VILENSKY

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE,
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Ronemus & Vilensky, a personal injury and medical malpractice firm in mid-town Manhattan, has successfully represented victims since they started in 1992, recovering over 100 million dollars for their clients. The thorough and effective work they have done on behalf of their clients has earned them respect both locally and nationally. They have been chosen as Super Lawyers in NYC for eight years running, and have been ranked consistently in the top 100 lawyers in Metro New York.

The firm handles significant injury cases ranging from medical malpractice, birth related events, construction accidents, traumatic brain injuries, motor vehicle accidents, as well as civil rights, police brutality and wrongful arrests.

Ronemus & Vilensky has become a high profile firm for their work on the cases of victims of the MetroNorth train crashes, as well as those of the ConEdison gas pipeline explosions. Both partners, Robert Vilensky and Michael Ronemus are frequently quoted by the press as experts on cases involving suits against NYC and municipal corporations and for medical malpractice and traumatic brain injury. Robert Vilensky is a frequent contributor to the Law Journal covering topics such as evidence, expert witnesses and how to obtain the most recovery for victims of malpractice. And Michael Ronemus has been a guest speaker for such prestigious groups as The New York State Trial Lawyers Association and the American Association of Justice.

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LISA GIOFFRE BAIRD, ESQ.

REAL ESTATE, TRUSTS AND ESTATES

Lisa Gioffre Baird is the senior member of the law firm of Gioffre & Gioffre Professional Corporation. The firm was established in 1935 by her grandfather, former NY State Senator Anthony B. Gioffre. Her father, former Rye Town Justice and preeminent Westchester zoning attorney Bruno J. Gioffre, joined the firm in 1958 and now serves as its counsel. Lisa, her father and the firm all maintain AV® rating by Martindale-Hubbell, the highest rating possible by other lawyers and judges. Lisa has earned her success and reputation over the past 28 years representing buyers, sellers and lenders in commercial and residential transactions and also in the field of Wills and Estates, with offices in Purchase, NY and Wilton, CT.

She attributes the success of her firm to the "hands on" personal approach she learned early in her career. "Being a part of a family firm and carrying tradition forward has made me work harder and instilled in me a sense of caring, pride and accomplishment, managing a firm that is more than 80 years old."

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LOUIS F. BURKE, ESQ.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION, SECURITIES, COMMODITIES LITIGATION

Louis F. Burke P.C. is primarily engaged in commercial litigation before federal and state courts, arbitration proceedings before securities and commodities exchanges and their regulatory counterparts such as the National Futures Association, and administrative proceedings before the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") and the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC").

The Firm specializes in complex financial instrument trading cases and has represented several lead plaintiffs in class actions involving manipulation of the futures markets that have resulted in settlements of over \$300 million.

Louis F. Burke has been voted one of *New York's Best Lawyers* in Commercial Litigation for 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016, *Super Lawyers* in Securities Litigation 2014, 2015 and 2016, and is co-chair of the Alternate Dispute Resolution committee of the Section of Litigation of the American Bar Association. Mr. Burke was an author and editor of *Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Futures Industry*, Juris Publications, July 2013.

For over 25 years, the Firm has successfully represented investors, brokers, brokerage firms and hedge funds in cases where losses have occurred in futures, securities and foreign currency trading.

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BECKMAN, LIEBERMAN & BARANDES, LLP

REAL ESTATE, CORPORATE, SECURITIES, SECURED TRANSACTIONS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Beckman, Lieberman & Barandes LLP is an AV Rated® law firm located in New York City recognized by their peers in the Martindale-Hubbell® Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers. Each of the partners is also AV Rated®. Founded to service the needs of clients in real estate, general corporate, securities and secured transactions, and entertainment related matters, the firm believes that intimate relationships and personal service are essential to effective representation. The breadth of experience of Robert Barandes, David Lieberman, Michael Beckman, and Jeffrey Bergman, allows this boutique firm to provide its wide range of services. Using innovative solutions, creative approaches, and relationships earned over their years of practice, the firm is capable of handling matters of almost any size both nationally and internationally.

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DaSILVA & HILOWITZ LLP

FAMILY LAW AND TRUSTS & ESTATES

Creative lawyering, legal expertise, respect by other lawyers – and especially judges – combined with sensitivity and personal attention to client's needs – these and many more unique qualities have set Willard H. DaSilva and Lynne S. Hilowitz apart from other attorneys and justify a Tier 1® and AV® rating and designation as Preeminent Attorneys® in fields of divorce and family law and in wills, estate and trust planning and litigation.

DaSilva is recognized as one of the top 100 family law trial lawyers in the country and is referred to as the "Dean of Matrimonial Lawyers" by the *New York Law Journal*. His book *New York Matrimonial Practice* is viewed as the "Bible of Family Law". Hilowitz is Past President of the Estate Planning Council of Rockland County and of the Rockland County Bar Association and is Chair of its Surrogate's Court Committee.

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EUGENE G. EISNER

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, CONTRACTS

Gene Eisner, the senior partner of Eisner & Associates, has been a leading advocate in the field of labor and employment law for over 50 years. Mr. Eisner is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell and has been included in "Best Lawyers in America" for the past 20 years and one of New York's "Super Lawyers" for the past 10 years.

Mr. Eisner's firm represents employees both in the private and public sector, including unions, individual employees, university professors, teachers, doctors, and other professionals, individual and class action wage & hour cases (wage theft), as well as age, gender and disability discrimination cases. His ability to negotiate maximum severance packages for professionals at all levels is well known.

He has been an adjunct professor of labor law in a Masters Degree Program in Labor Studies at CUNY. He has taught labor law at Hofstra University and at Cornell University ILR in New York City. He has also been a guest speaker and panelist in forums and conferences sponsored by the American Arbitration Association, the National Labor Relations Board, the Industrial Relations Research Association, and the NYU Annual Conference on Labor, where he recently delivered a paper entitled, "Damages Under the Fair Labor Standards Act"; has published a law review article on the right of public employees to strike and a chapter in a book on "Plant Closings and Relocation of Bargaining Unit Work".

He is a charter member of the Advisory Board of the New York University Law School Center for Labor & Employment Law. He graduated from Cornell University's School of Industrial & Labor Relations and New York University's Law School.

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SAMUEL J. FERRARA

FAMILY LAW, DIVORCE, CONTRACTS, APPEALS

Samuel J. Ferrara is an executive partner and oversees the Matrimonial Law department at Abrams, Fensterman, Fensterman, Eisman, Formato, Ferrara & Wolf, LLP.

Mr. Ferrara represents a variety of clients in a range of matrimonial and family law issues, as well as transactional, corporate and commercial matters. He has particular expertise with contested custody cases, high net worth cases and commercial transactions.

Mr. Ferrara counsels clients throughout all phases of the divorce and separation process, including custody/parental access disputes and support/property distribution issues. He also assists clients in resolving corporate and commercial issues. His experience includes transactional work such as buy/sell agreements for multimillion dollar entities and smaller, individual transactions. These include such issues as employment, shareholder and partnership agreements, licensure issues, and real estate and general business/corporate consultation.

Mr. Ferrara presents numerous programs and/or teaches at various professional organizations on parent education, custody, parental access, property distribution, trial advocacy, appellate advocacy and ethics. He is also published in professional journals and newsletters.

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WARREN ESANU

CORPORATE, TRUSTS & ESTATES, REAL ESTATE

Warren Esanu is a founder of Esanu Katsky Korins and Siger (now Katsky Korins LLP). Ranked AV® (the highest ranking) by his peers, Warren has counseled wealthy families regarding estate and trust planning and estate and trust administration. He has represented individuals and families in the sale and recapitalization of closely-held businesses. In addition, Warren has extensive experience in a wide range of corporate and tax matters. Moreover, he has worked extensively on both public and private company mergers, leveraged buy-outs, acquisitions and sales.

Warren is a published author and editor of a number of books and publications. He has lectured on corporate and tax matters. In addition, he has served as chairman of the board of a public company and as a director of a number of public and private companies.

Warren has represented:

- The controlling shareholders in bringing private a publicly-held company.
- A privately-held medical device company in its sale to one of the world's largest multi-national corporations.
- A public company in the sale of several of its subsidiaries.
- A public company in an exchange of debt for equity.
- The purchaser of the largest privately held hat company in the United States.
- The seller of the largest privately held luggage company in the United States to a leveraged-buyout firm.
- A broker dealer in a significant number of initial public offerings and private placements.

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BETTINA D. HINDIN

FAMILY LAW

With nearly 50 years of combined practice experience Hindin Deutsch is proud to be recognized as one of the most accomplished and experienced matrimonial litigation firms in New York. Recognized for their skill and expertise in the investigation and analysis of the complex financial issues that arise in matrimonial and family law matters, their track record in handling diverse transactional matters in all areas of domestic relations, LGBT law and family law—including pre-nuptial and post-nuptial agreements, divorce, separation, annulment, maintenance, child support, support modification, custody, visitation, relocation, paternity, equitable distribution, asset valuation and Assisted Reproductive Technology – is unparalleled. Recognized as "AV Preeminent Attorneys" and awarded the coveted designation of "SUPERLAWYERS," Hindin Deutsch and their staff work diligently to achieve positive results for their clients. Though highly established as skilled and effective negotiators, the firm is most well-known for its aggressive, meticulous, creative, individualized and most of all, winning litigation tactics and strategies. As such, Hindin Deutsch is frequently called upon to represent prominent individuals in the worlds of finance, medicine, law, real estate and entertainment. They are acknowledged experts and published authors in the field, and have appeared often as expert commentators for MSNBC and CNN.

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MARIO ALEX JOSEPH JOHN SMARGIASSI

DIVORCE, FAMILY LAW, PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

The partners at Joseph & Smargiassi, LLC are known to be caring and even-handed, or tenacious and unrelenting. Mario Alex Joseph and John Smargiassi have over 40+ combined years of experience litigating contested divorce and custody cases including trials, hearings and appeals. The winning results of their intense work ethic have produced the praise of clients and peers alike.

Mr. Joseph earned the AV Preeminent® (highest professional/ethical) Martindale-Hubbell rating, and is a legal reference and expert to news outlets on high-profile divorces. Mr. Joseph and/or Mr. Smargiassi are admitted to practice in both New York and New Jersey, along with United States Court of Appeals, District Courts and United States Supreme Court. They are experienced trial litigators and negotiators. Notwithstanding their professional accomplishments, they take equal pride in their human accomplishments, such as the following client testimonial: "You have no idea how you have played a part in my life ... not a day goes by that I don't thank God for the guidance, insight, and fortitude you have given me. I send blessings to you every day."

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ROBERT D. LIPMAN

LITIGATION, LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

No two employment issues are identical. The players, facts, motives, perceptions and law must all be taken into account before preparing an action plan. The wrong initial move can result in years of expensive and exhausting litigation and tremendous stress. The correct initial request, response, investigation, charge or pleading is often the key to the case. The decision of how to handle such important matters should not be made by paralegals, or even experienced attorneys, unless they are well-versed in employment law.

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ASSET FORFEITURE, RICO,
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Forfeiture authority Steven L. Kessler maintains a national AV rated® white-collar practice in New York. He litigates cases of first impression and national significance before federal and state trial and appellate courts nationwide.

Mr. Kessler is a member of the Joint Rules Committee for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York. The author of two highly acclaimed treatises on forfeiture, Mr. Kessler is widely quoted and cited in court opinions and media of legal and general circulation including *NBC Nightly News*, *The New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes* magazine and the *New York Law Journal*. He is a prolific writer and frequent CLE lecturer and continues to testify before legislative committees on forfeiture-related issues.

Following his graduation from Cornell Law School, Mr. Kessler was head of the Asset Forfeiture Unit of the Bronx District Attorney's Office. A member of the Forfeiture Abuse Task Force of the NACDL, Mr. Kessler has served on the House of Delegates of the NYS Bar Association, the Boards of Directors of the Bronx County Bar Association and the NYC Association of Small Claims Arbitrators, and the Forfeiture Law Advisory Group of the NYS District Attorney's Association. He currently sits as an Arbitrator in New Rochelle City Court and is in his 22nd year as an Adjunct Professor of Law at New York Law School.

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Richard Harris Rosenberg's expertise in criminal defense has driven successful representation of his clients for more than 30 years in federal and state courts. Long recognized by his peers as a preeminent advocate, Mr. Rosenberg's experience and commitment have enabled him to achieve positive results in an array of complex criminal prosecutions. These cases have involved mail and wire fraud, misuse of office by public officials, health care and securities fraud, money laundering, narcotics importation and distribution, Hobbs Act stings, racketeering, material support of terrorism and weapon related offenses.

Mr. Rosenberg attributes his success to vigorous preparation, thoroughness, advocacy and a keen understanding of the dynamics of the criminal justice system.

Mr. Rosenberg earned his B.S. degree from N.Y.U. and his Juris Doctor from St. John's University School of Law. Earlier in his career Mr. Rosenberg served as a Senior Trial Assistant District Attorney in the Manhattan D.A.'s Office and as Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau for the Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York.

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Jonathan D. Sands represents clients who have suffered serious damages in personal injury, product liability and construction-site accidents. He also represents individuals and businesses that have suffered substantial damage to personal and business property. Each client is unique and Mr. Sands is highly experienced in evaluating whether early settlement in the claim stage, traditional litigation, or alternative dispute resolution might best serve the individual client.

Mr. Sands founded his practice fifteen years ago after serving as an assistant district attorney in the appeals, trial and major narcotics bureaus at the Kings County District Attorney's Office, and as a senior trial attorney for major liability insurance carriers. In addition to his own practice, he is often called upon by other attorneys to assist with the handling of their matters.

Mr. Sands graduated from Tulane University, and from Case Western Reserve School of Law in 1987, served in the New York State Bar Association House of Delegates, and holds an AV Preeminent rating by Martindale-Hubbell, the highest peer review rating for legal ability and ethical standards.

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Steven J. Seiden is a founding member of Seiden & Kaufman and has exclusively practiced personal injury law for thirty years. Mr. Seiden has recovered millions of dollars in verdicts, arbitration awards, and settlements for injured victims of accidents and surviving family members in wrongful death actions.

Mr. Seiden has successfully handled thousands of cases in the New York State Courts, Federal Courts, and Court of Claims arising from all types of motor vehicle accidents, premises accidents, and construction accidents. Mr. Seiden is also an accomplished appellate attorney, having won numerous cases in the Appellate Division and New York State's highest court, the Court of Appeals. He has also lectured attorneys at Continuing Legal Education Courses.

Mr. Seiden is a member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum and holds an AV Preeminent® rating by Martindale-Hubbell®, the highest peer review rating for legal ability and ethical standards.

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MICHAEL H. SCHWARTZ

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Mr. Schwartz goes the extra mile in his fight to defend his clients. His legal proceeding against the Bank of America, just one of many of his legal proceedings on behalf of his clients against Banks, Credit Card

Companies and Lenders has been written up in both the **NY Times** and **Wall Street Journal**. He has been a guest speaker on bankruptcy law for the Westchester County Bar Association, New York State Bar Association, Mount Vernon Bar Association, Westchester Woman's Bar Association, New York Society of Independent Accountants, Building 32B-J Legal Services, National Business Institute and other organizations. He is one of the original and is a sustaining member of the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, the national organization dedicated to serving the needs of consumers and their bankruptcy attorneys and protecting the rights of consumer debtors. He has lobbied Congress on behalf of bankruptcy clients. Mr. Schwartz is a graduate of the famous *Max Gardner's Bankruptcy Boot Camp* and a graduate of *Max Gardner's Veteran's Boot Camp in Advanced Bankruptcy Litigation and Securitization*, where he learned new strategies for discharging debts, fighting banks and protecting your bankruptcy discharge. And most recently *Max Gardner's Mortgage Modification Boot Camp and Advanced Mortgage Modification Boot Camp* where he learned new strategies for mortgage modifications and foreclosure defense. He was the Co-Chair of the Westchester County Bar Association Bankruptcy and Creditors Rights Committee from 2011 – 2015 and is an active member of the Hudson Valley Bankruptcy Bar Association.

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Our five attorneys and eight paralegals are dedicated to providing personal and caring attention. That is why 95% of our clients are referred by their families, friends, and other attorneys.

Our office has wide experience in all kinds of personal injury cases, such as automobile, construction and work accidents, buildings, sidewalks and roads, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and malpractice. We do not shy away from difficult or unusual cases which other lawyers decline.

Mr. Seitelman is an acknowledged leader in personal injury law and has lectured at the New York State Trial Lawyers and State Bar Associations. He is a life member of the the Million Dollar Advocates Forum, and he has been listed in New York *Super Lawyers* for ten years. Mr. Seitelman is also listed as one of the top 100 New York lawyers by the National Trial Attorneys. He also holds Martindale-Hubbell's highest rating of AV Preeminent since 1999. Mr. Seitelman is also active in the Jewish community and charities.

Our greatest reward is being able to help each client, one at a time. If you have been injured, we have time for you.

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We represent domestic and foreign companies, broker-dealers, registered personnel, high net worth investors, and others, in connection with a range of business transactions, including: mergers and acquisitions; securities offerings and compliance; SEC enforcement matters; and general corporate and compliance matters. The firm routinely provides guidance to clients with respect to the ever changing legal and regulatory environment.

Sierchio & Partners delivers "large firm" quality services on a cost-effective basis, which is why the vast majority of our clients have been obtained through referrals.

Mr. Sierchio, a graduate of Cornell Law School, has represented and advised clients for more than 40 years.

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Mr. Smolev practices in all aspects of tax law (criminal and civil tax defense), corporate law, estate and trust law (planning, probate, will contests), and education law.

Mr. Smolev has an accounting degree from Hofstra University, a law degree from Washington College of Law (WCL) and LLM in Taxation from NYU Graduate School of Law.

He was in the tax division of Peat, Marwick & Mitchell & Co. (KPMG).

He is a former adjunct Professor at the Hofstra School of Business teaching accounting, business law and tax. He taught Estate Planning at Hofstra Law School and currently lectures on Criminal Tax Law at WCL.

He writes for The New York Law Journal and authored the chapter on charitable remainder trusts in the Handbook of Wealth Management. His chapter titled, 'Estate Planning Client Strategies,' has been published by Aspatore, Inside the Minds: Estate Planning Client Strategies.

He is a long time member of the American Bar Association, New York State Bar Association and Nassau County Bar Association, serving on various committees. Mr. Smolev is a forty-one year member of the NYS Association of School Attorneys and President in 1984.

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Jonathan Wilkofsky and the firm he has led for more than 28 years are recognized as the premier advocates for victims of insurance company misconduct.

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The firm is responsible for many pro-consumer landmark insurance decisions in New York and takes great pride in positively impacting insurance law by drafting and winning passage of pro-consumer legislation. In November 2014, Governor Cuomo signed landmark legislation drafted by Wilkofsky which significantly enhances the consumers' rights in pursuing damage claims. This is Wilkofsky's eighth successful legislative accomplishment.

Wilkofsky, who has never lost a jury verdict in more than 32 years of litigation, is also the author of *The Law and Procedure of Insurance Appraisal*, which won the Cordish Writing Award from the National Association of Public Insurance Adjusters, an organization that also named Wilkofsky "Person of the Year." He also lectures nationally on trial tactics and the insurance claims process.

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The firm has the highest rating awarded to attorneys by Martindale-Hubbell®, as AV Preeminent™, signifying that the firm's legal abilities are held in the highest regard, based upon an independent peer review. We have an AVVO rating of 9.5 Superb and have also been selected to New York Super Lawyers® in 2014 and 2015.

Himmelfarb & Sher, LLP's practice areas also include commercial tax certiorari, banking law, commercial/civil litigation, estate planning/probate proceedings and bankruptcy.

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Designers and fashion businesses seek out Karen Artz Ash, National Co-Chair of Katten's Intellectual Property Department, because of her unique industry expertise. Karen is a member of the Firm's Board of Directors and is Chair of the national Pro Bono Committee. She is an Adjunct Professor at New York Law School, writes a monthly column on trademarks, has contributed to several books on fashion law and licensing, lectures frequently on fashion law, served as a member of the Federal Mediation Advisory Committee for the Southern District of New York, and is a Court appointed panel member for the Second Circuit Court of Appeals Management Plan pilot program.

ADMIRALTY & MARITIME LAW OFFICE OF TABAK, MELLUSI & SHISHA LLP

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Jacob Shisha

Mellusi and Shisha have been conferred as "Proctors in Admiralty" by the Maritime Law Association. Both are graduates of the SUNY Maritime College. Mellusi obtained a B.E. in marine engineering. Shisha obtained a B.S. in



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marine transportation. Both are respectively licensed by the Coast Guard as a ship's engineer and a deck officer. Both sailed as Merchant Marine officers aboard numerous vessels on the high seas and on inland voyages.

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Mr. Avelino provides comprehensive estate planning and estate administration services, and handles all areas of tax and corporate matters.

He is proud of his AV Preeminent® Martindale-Hubbell rating wherein he was rated 5 out of 5 stars – the highest possible rating one can attain.

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Mr. Cirrito is an "AV-Rated" Peer and Client-Reviewed attorney and began his law career as an Assistant District Attorney in Bronx County.

He has been lead counsel in numerous commercial and business-related lawsuits, including derivative actions, dissolution proceedings, restrictive covenant actions, and contract enforcement issues. He has been instrumental in obtaining variances and permits for Long Island developers and has successfully prosecuted many Article 78 Proceedings against municipalities and zoning boards.

Mr. Cirrito has also successfully prosecuted and defended many clients in negligence, personal injury and labor law matters.

This boutique Long Island firm prides itself in providing its clients with diligent and zealous representation.

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Frank is the senior partner of Colucci & Umans, a boutique law firm providing high quality legal services in Intellectual Property Law, helping clients build and protect brands, bringing value from start-ups to multi-national corporations. The firm's areas of practice include Trademark, Copyright, Unfair Competition and Patent Law. The firm has litigated cases throughout the United States and provides litigation strategy and aggressive representation with cases regarding reverse confusion, dilution and trade dress. Frank is a graduate of St. John's University and Brooklyn Law School and is a member of the ABA, N.Y. Patent, Trademark and Copyright Law Association, New York City Bar Association, New York State Bar Association and INTA (International Trademark Association).

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What sets Connors & Sullivan apart is their holistic approach. In addition to creating plans to avoid probate, save on taxes or protect assets, the firm's experienced attorneys assist clients with health and quality-of-life issues. With offices in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island, Connors & Sullivan works to preserve the dignity of people facing medical problems and other challenges.

Michael Connors can also be heard on his "Ask the Lawyer" radio show Saturdays, 6-7 p.m., on AM 970 The Answer and AM 570 The Mission.

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Lawrence DiGiovanna represents all of the principal participants in the co-operative, condominium and real estate industries from developers, cooperative housing corporations and condominium boards of managers to purchasers and sellers of single and multi-family properties. Respected among his colleagues as a leader in his fields of practice, he has served as president of the Brooklyn Bar Association and on the executive committee of the State Bar's Real Property Law Section. Recognized by the judiciary for integrity, character and reliability, the Appellate Division has appointed him chair (former) of its Grievance Committee and a member (current) of its Character & Fitness Committee. Mr. DiGiovanna is known for the highest level of integrity, quality of service and dedication to clients' interests.

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During his 40-plus-year career fighting for the housing rights of tenants and cooperative shareholders, Steve Dobkin has served as senior attorney at South Brooklyn Legal Services, president of the Legal Services Staff Association, tenant representative on the Rent Guidelines Board, assistant attorney general prosecuting real estate fraud, adjunct professor for 28 years at New York Law School, and for more than 18 years, partner in the firm of Collins, Dobkin & Miller LLP, specializing in the representation of tenants and shareholders in complex housing litigation, including demolitions, owner occupancy, non-primary residence, rent overcharges, and major capital improvements. Dobkin has briefed and argued numerous ground-breaking appeals, including cases that have expanded the rights of tenants and saved many millions of dollars for New York City's rent-controlled tenants.

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Ronald Fatoullah has dedicated his career to advising New Yorkers about the legal and financial challenges of aging.

His distinguished reputation is built on a fierce dedication to clients and by adhering to the highest form of professional and ethical standards. He is highly regarded for his contributions and expertise in the fields of Elder Law, Estate Planning, Medicaid Eligibility, Special Needs Planning, Probate and Guardianships.

Attorney Fatoullah has a 10 year inclusion as one of New York's *Best Lawyers* in the fields of elder law, & trusts and estates, and is also selected as a *Superlawyer* and *Top Rated Lawyer*.

Ronald Fatoullah currently co-chairs the Board of the Long Island Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, serves as an Executive Council Member of AARP New York, and publishes the monthly column, *The Elder Law Minute*.™

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**JACOB S. FELDMAN****EDUCATION, LABOR & EMPLOYMENT**

JACOB S. FELDMAN is a founding partner of Frazer & Feldman, LLP, representing public school boards of education as general and labor counsel. His practice concentrates on special education matters. He has successfully represented school districts in impartial hearings and appeals through to the second circuit court of appeals. His approach to advising special education clients is to combine knowledge of the law with common sense to create practical solutions. He is a frequent speaker on special education programs, including "Developing a Bulletproof IEP" and "Section 504 in N.Y." He is the author of "Read All About It," a monthly compilation of important special education decisions from around the nation. He also serves as general counsel to School Boards advising them on matters including tenure and seniority, and staff and student discipline.

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Mary A. Gambardella is a Partner of the firm, and is Chair of the Labor, Employment and Benefits Department, Co-Chair of the Diversity Committee and Chair of the Women's Network Committee.

Ms. Gambardella has extensive experience assisting clients in a wide range of industries with policies and procedures; sensitive discipline and termination processes; complicated leaves of absence under the varying federal and state statutory entitlements; reductions in workforce; and severance packages. She is also a seasoned litigator with significant experience before state and federal courts, administrative agencies such as Departments of Labor, the EEOC, and OSHA, involving all aspects of labor and employment law, including discrimination, sexual harassment, wrongful discharge, wage/hour and employment contract claims, including complex, multi-plaintiff claims and class actions. Ms. Gambardella frequently conducts management and HR personnel training and assists with internal investigations. She is the author of *Employment Litigation*, part of the Employment Law series published by Law Journal Press, as well as multiple book chapters and articles on various employment law topics.

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Mr. Fishman is a former assistant attorney General in the Bureau of Consumer Frauds and protection and senior staff attorney at The Legal Aid Society's Civil Division.

In private practice since 1989, Mr. Fishman is a partner at Fishman & Mallon, LLP, a tenant and consumer rights firm. He specializes in eviction defense and has pioneered strategies to address "tenant blacklisting" and consumer protection and privacy claims in individual and class action cases.

He has successfully pursued claims under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and the Deceptive Practices Act against credit bureaus, debt collection agencies, creditors, landlords, and attorneys.

Mr. Fishman received the 2002 NACA Consumer Hero of The Year Award and a 2008 Wasserstein Public Interest Fellowship from Harvard Law School and has lectured widely throughout the country on consumer and tenant protection issues.

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Bill and his team provide creative and effective personal, financial, charitable, and tax planning to individual clients, closely held family companies, foundations, and charities.

He draws on his experience with counseling multiple generations of families in connection with both traditional estate planning and administration matters including wills, revocable trusts (and other testamentary substitutes), estate and trust administration, the establishment of charitable foundations and other charitable entities, and more complex planning that addresses a broad range of tax and non-tax related issues. Bill is a frequent lecturer and writer on estate-related topics. Bill is a member of the boards of several charitable foundations, and is a trustee of Berkeley Divinity School at Yale. He is a graduate of Yale and of Columbia Law School.

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David A. Kapelman is a personal injury lawyer who believes the legal system is for everyone and that clients deserve respect. He prides himself on providing personal attention to each client.

David A. Kapelman provides aggressive representation to victims of construction accidents, lead paint poisoning, medical malpractice, birth injuries, assaults and sexual assaults, slip-and-falls, dog bites, product liability injuries caused by defective equipment or other products, motor vehicle accidents and other personal injuries that result in serious injury or death.

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For more than 35 years, Richard has held an AV Preeminent Peer review rating by Martindale-Hubbell, the highest recognition possible in the legal profession for professionalism and ethics. He is a Harvard Law graduate and combines his experience, knowledge and high ethical standards with a commitment to know and serve the interests of his clients.

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I am licensed in New York and New Jersey, but represent clients with local counsel nationwide.

To learn more about my practice, please visit my website at www.uqur.com

Whether you are a lawyer with a question, or a client looking for representation, I am happy to talk to you.

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Michael works with clients to minimize (and often eliminate) estate and gift taxes through the coordination of pension benefits, business assets and other assets in the estate plan while preserving the client's assets for future generations.

He analyzes liquidity needs for the payment of estate tax, including the use of life insurance products, family limited partnerships, qualified personal residence trusts and generation-skipping trusts. Michael also advises individuals with regards to charitable giving including the formation of not-for-profit corporations.

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Before entering private practice, Mr. Raff was a full-time faculty member at New York University School of Law. Mr. Raff has the honor of being a Fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers and a Fellow of the Academy of Court Appointed Masters. In 2010, he was honored by the New York City Council for providing exemplary services to the New York Community.

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Whether he is representing an individual at trial or advising a company on how best to negotiate the dangerous shoals of an investigation, Chuck Ross is sought out for his skill, expertise, and dedication to achieving the best results for his clients. He has successfully represented a wide variety of individuals and companies in both criminal and regulatory matters.

Chuck is a member of the Florida State Bar, as well as the Southern and Middle Districts of Florida. He is also a member of the New York State Bar, Southern and Eastern Districts of New York. He is a member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the New York Council of Defense Lawyers, and the Federal Bar Council. He served as vice chair of the Judiciary Committee of the NYC Bar Association, and frequently lectures on topics involving white collar defense and criminal trial skills and strategy. He has consulted on criminal justice issues for *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, CNBC and Court TV.

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Mr. Riker's activities/achievements include an "AV Preeminent" rating from Martindale-Hubbell, Client Distinction Awards for 2012-2015, featured CLE lecturer, and various prestigious legal panel memberships. However, Mr. Riker is most proud of his longstanding relationships with his clients, many of whom he has represented for decades.

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He is a frequent lecturer to members of the Bar Association, covering topics such as construction site accidents, vocational rehabilitation, and expert witness examinations.

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Steve has litigated intellectual property, LLC and shareholder, business torts, contracts, real estate, pharmaceutical, estates and trusts, libel, lending, insurance, and others. His grounding in corporate law gives him the perspective to approach a case in economic terms.

Steve is a graduate of Yale College and Harvard Law School. In 2014, The National Trial Lawyers selected him as one of the top 100 Trial Lawyers in New York State.

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White Harris PLLC is a premier management-side employment law firm devoted exclusively to the practice of labor and employment law. The firm represents local, national, and international businesses of all sizes, and at all stages of development, from start-up companies to mature corporations. A strategic and aggressive team of employment lawyers, White Harris PLLC is committed to developing superior solutions for businesses in a wide range of employment law matters.

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Marc J. Isaacs is a lawyer with more than two decades of experience and is the founder of Isaacs & Associates, PLLC. He practices all aspects of real property and corporate law. He has broad and varied experience in corporate work and in commercial and residential transactional work, financing, 1031 tax deferred exchanges, commercial and residential leasing, representing investors, developers and cooperative and condominium boards.

Marc represents clients in the acquisition, sale, financing and development of residential, commercial, multi-family, retail and industrial properties. He also represents owners in the acquisition, sale and leasing of their commercial, office and warehouse space, shopping centers and retail stores. Further, he represents individuals, corporations and businesses in the rental of office and retail space and restaurants.

Marc's clients include domestic and foreign investors who have acquired, sold and owned residential and commercial properties, and landlords and tenants relative to their respective rights, obligations and interests.

Steven J. Mandel worked through law school as a professional comedian and believes this training helped make him a successful trial attorney.

Steve's been described as "the Picasso of the legal profession" because of his proven ability to assess each client's situation and prevail in what other lawyers might describe as "the un-winnable case."

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JOHN BONINA ALWAYS WANTED TO MAKE

a difference, and as the senior trial lawyer of the medical malpractice law firm Bonina & Bonina, P.C., he's done just that—assisting thousands of injured clients during his 25 years in practice.

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JOHN AND HIS SISTER, PARTNER ANDREA BONINA,

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presentations, which weave evidence and testimony into a compelling story for the jury. His significant results at trial include a \$7 million wrongful death verdict; a \$4.6 million verdict in a wrongful death case involving the delayed diagnosis of lung cancer; a \$2.5 million verdict for the family of a woman who bled to death while waiting for emergency surgery on a ruptured aneurysm; and a \$1 million verdict for a ruptured Achilles tendon sustained by a worker hit by a forklift.

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From Left: Deborah Trerotola, Andrea Bonina, John Bonina, Amy Insler

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Deborah Trerotola and Amy Insler have all been AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell®. John has been selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* every year since 2007, and both partners have been selected to *New York Super Lawyers* since 2007. John is a past President of the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers and a Chair of the Medical Malpractice Committee of the Brooklyn Bar Association. Andrea is a past President of the Brooklyn Bar Association and Chair of their Technology Committee. Both partners frequently lecture on medical malpractice, product liability, and trial tactics throughout the state.

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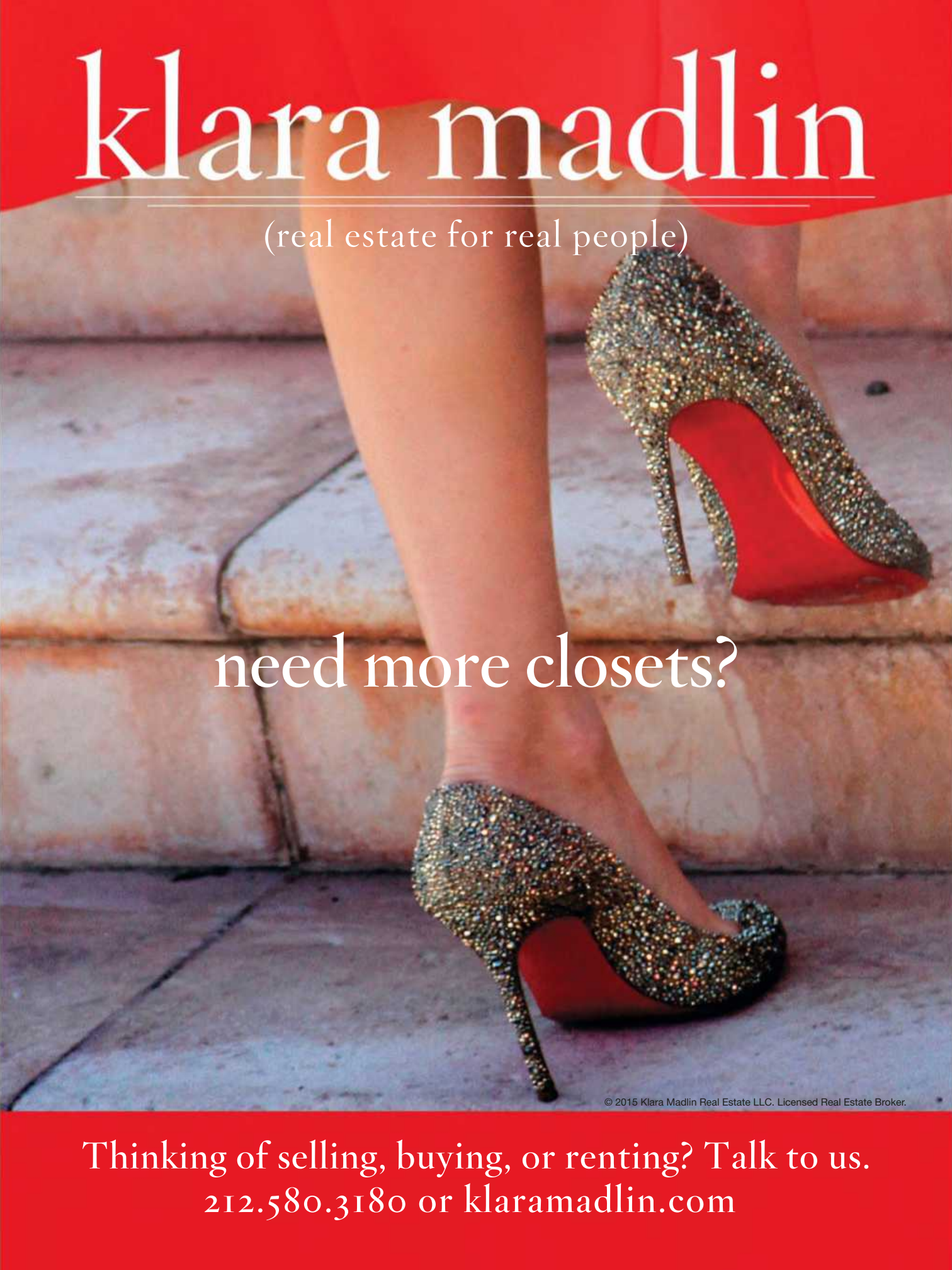
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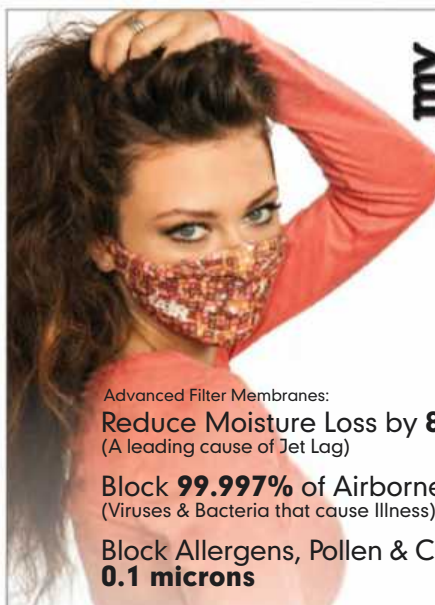
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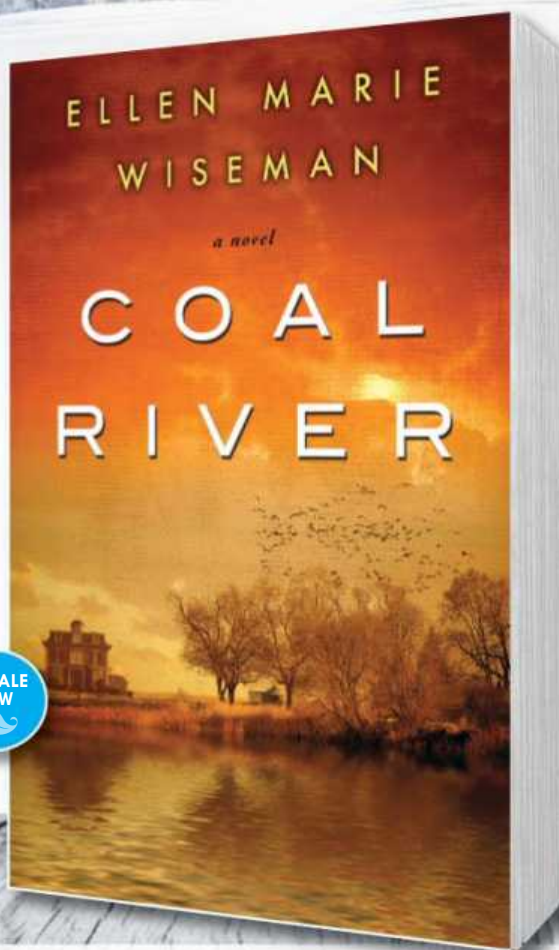
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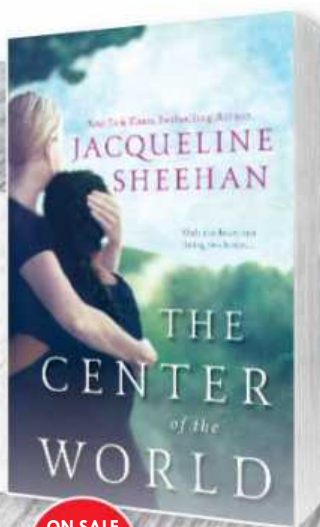


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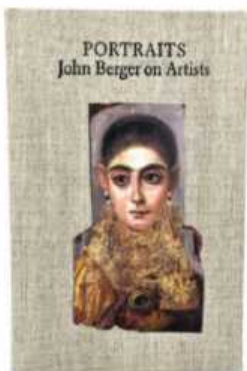
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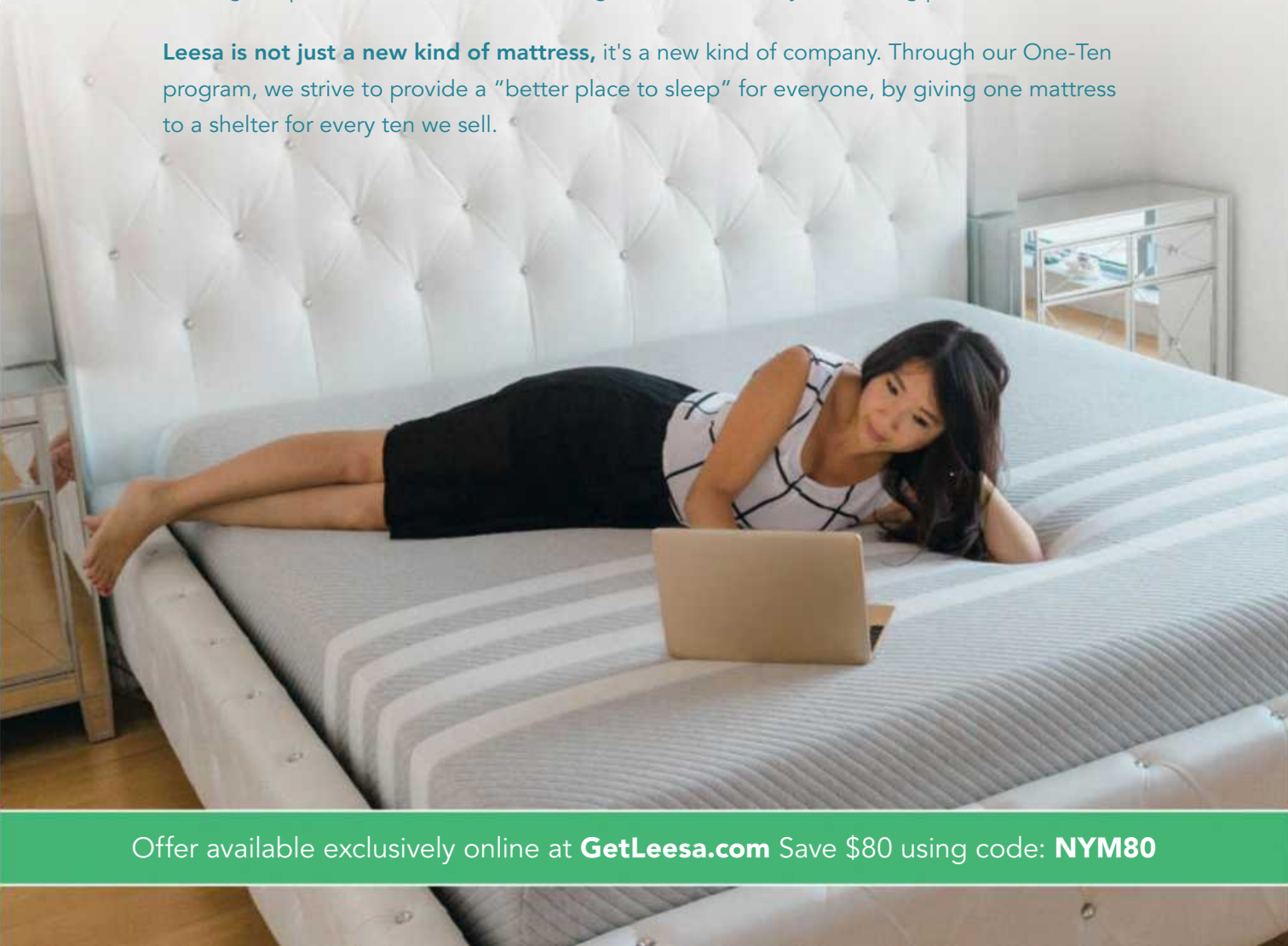
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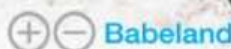
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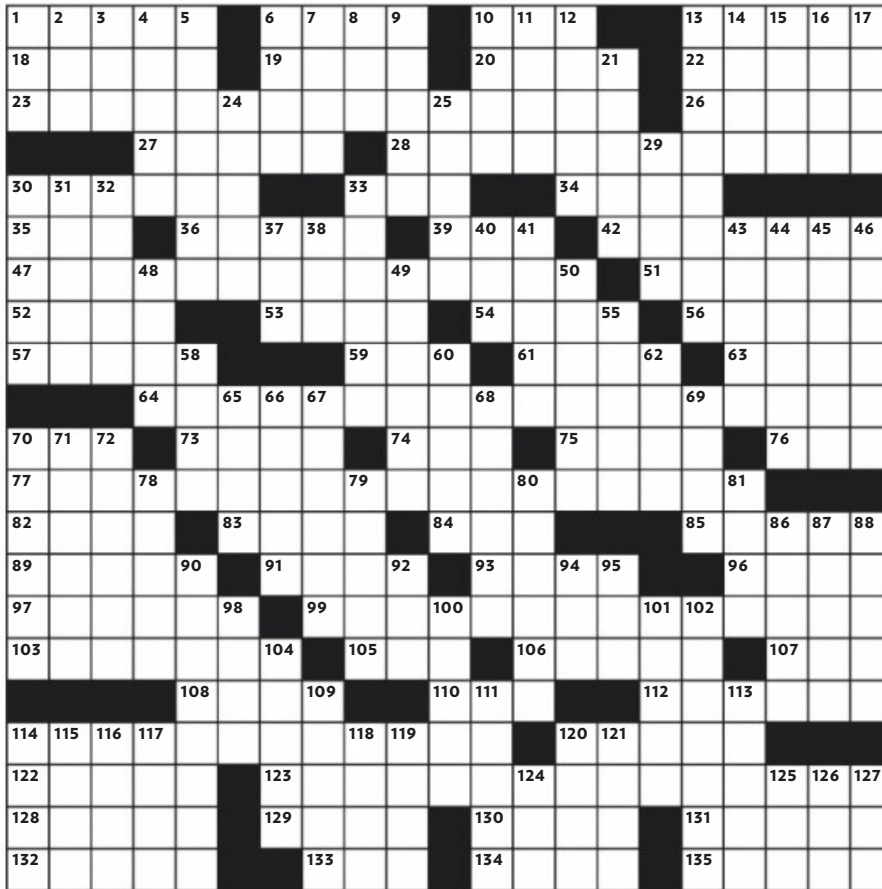
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Grinchy Songs

New York Crossword by Cathy Allis



Across

- 1 Morocco's capital
6 Praise
10 Nile biter
13 Fills to capacity
18 Kind of acid in proteins
19 Fairy-tale fiend
20 Hirsute herbal "pet"
22 Muscat native
23 Grinchy song about sounds that don't ring true?
26 Drive away
27 Cruise stopovers
28 Grinchy song about an uncool yule?
30 Deserving attention
33 St. Anthony's cross
34 Excursion
35 Bronx attraction
36 Bridge player's opener, briefly
39 He might knock ewe up
42 River connecting Lakes Erie and Ontario
47 Grinchy song about a nativity scene?
51 Dating app using swiping
52 Orderly
53 Cannon once married to Cary
54 Without ____ (riskily)
- 56 Ankle bones
57 Standing upright
59 Cat's pa
61 Barbershop sound
63 Edward G.'s "Little Caesar" part
64 Grinchy song about the Grinch's own "advent"?
70 Perp's methods
73 "Copacabana" showgirl
74 Suffix with abstract
75 Israeli airline
76 Maiden-name preceder
77 Grinchy song about spendthrifts?
82 Moth type
83 Designer Oscar ____ Renta
84 2015 Melissa McCarthy movie
85 Hogwash
89 Make ecstatic
91 Rock guitarist Lofgren
93 Echidna's snack
96 Tannenbäume, literally
97 Smooth and shiny
99 Grinchy song about Dec. 25 boozing?
103 Hypnotic states
105 Posting at JFK
106 Have a life
107 Keatsian creation

- 108 Cloverleaf "leaf"
110 Honorary law deg.
112 Northernmost N.J. county
114 Grinchy song about a cloying Festivus?
120 Baffle
122 Group of Brownies
123 Grinchy song about the season's costliness?
128 Dole out
129 Recognize
130 "The Lion King" queen
131 Father of Jeff and Beau
132 Bialys, e.g.
133 Clothing retailer ____ Taylor
134 "... clothes were all tarnished with ashes and ____"
135 Nice girls?

Down

- 1 British rule in India
2 Brest friend
3 Storage receptacle
4 Blood vessel: prefix
5 "War and Peace" author
6 Brain section
7 Years and years
8 Dot-com's address
9 Airline with SkyMiles

- 10 Land-parcel part
11 Display
12 Ornamental loop
13 "Mona Lisa", for one
14 Cry from a flock
15 Mob boss
16 Where spoons are played
17 Flowerpot spot
21 "Birthplace" of Goodyear
24 Nicholas Gage memoir turned film
25 Old-fashioned dairy device
29 Business bigwig
30 Stratosphere gas
31 Vestibule
32 Suddenly bright stars
33 Insalata Caprese ingredient
37 Curtains, so to speak
38 Voice vote
40 ____ Khan
41 Brainy bunch
43 Contort
44 Talia's "Rocky" role
45 Job for a Saint Bernard
46 Songlike
48 Sharply outline
49 Societal erosion
50 Cheese-making substance
55 Line on a spine
58 Marketing head?
60 Siamese pleas
62 Singer Édith, "The Little Sparrow"
65 Arterial, e.g.
66 Pompeo of "Grey's Anatomy"
67 Phrase with "quits" or "a day"
68 Speak to sharply
69 The Copacabana, e.g.
70 Harass
71 Of the eyes
72 Beethoven's "Pathétique", e.g.
78 Monet's morning
79 Whiffenpoofs member
80 Meshed, as the audio and video
81 Boost
86 Wheels for big wheels
87 Incline
88 County northeast of London
90 Converts to cipher
92 Rank above cpl.
94 Texter's "I appreciate this"
95 ____ Lanka
98 "Uh-huh"
100 Arabic for "permissible"
101 Debate topic
102 Trip and almost fall
104 Artist's coverall
109 Starting strategy
111 Capital of France's Rhône
113 Mealtime mishap
114 Word in Texas's nickname
115 One of Woody's stock at Woodstock
116 Sampling of opinions
117 People shoot it with sticks
118 Nutrient in spinach
119 Comforter filler
120 D-Day invasion town
121 "Is ____ so?"
124 Toys 'R' Us acquisition ____ Schwarz
125 "OMG, too funny!"
126 Alkali in cleansers
127 1960s radical grp.

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THE APPROVAL MATRIX

Our deliberately oversimplified guide to who falls where on our taste hierarchies.

HIGHBROW

"Peace on Earth, goodwill toward men" had one crappy Q4.



Donald Trump **isn't funny anymore.**



Some Ukrainian nationalists are holding 24 stolen Dutch Golden Age paintings for **ransom** for \$55 million.

The Met has some of its former curators **sign confidentiality agreements.**

The Economic Policy Institute estimates that Walmart's China imports have eliminated 400,000 **U.S. jobs** since 2001.



Residents of the fancy Jean Nouvel condo in West Chelsea sue, claiming that its nifty façade is really **drafty.**



The dyspeptic owner of UES French joint Vaucluse accuses *Times* resto critic Pete Wells of being "desperately anxious to be **relevant.**"

The *WSJ* editorial page's **shifting** reasoning for why we never need to reduce emissions.



A woman is stabbed at Art Basel Miami Beach, and onlookers think it's **performance art ...**



... And somehow Art Basel seemed **more Hunger Games** than usual this year.

Forest City Ratner's **modular** skyscraper factory in the Brooklyn Navy Yard might lay off over 200 workers.



Taddeo Gaddi's early-Renaissance *Madonna and Child Enthroned With Ten Saints: Maestà* is back at the New-York Historical Society.



Peter Brown's *The Ransom of the Soul* offers a deep perspective on giving away your **fortune** (tax benefits aside).

It is now scientifically possible to do a **penis transplant** (although not yet recommended for cosmetic reasons).



If oligarchs had **alien-race superpowers**, they'd live in Mark Foster Gage's proposed 102-story 57th Street tower.



In *School of Rock*, Alex Brightman manages a thousand ways of making inappropriateness **cute.**

Robert Ryman's elegant, **gutsy** show at Dia: Chelsea makes a great case for all-white paintings being Ur-art supreme.



Randall Munroe's clever, **intricate** book *Thing Explainer: Complicated Stuff in Simple Words.*



Choo-choo! Congress is poised to approve a \$300 billion transportation bill. Looks like we'll finally get that new Hudson tunnel.

Tony Kushner's **obsessively giddy** tribute to Suzan-Lori Parks for the Gish Prize.

DESPICABLE



Morrissey's ongoing the-TSA-fondled-me **mope.**

Researchers at Stony Brook University prove that texting while walking makes you veer up to 61 percent off course. Which is why sidewalks are only 39 percent **as civilized** as they used to be.



The Force Awakens hype: **Wake us** when it's over.



Omarion's Twitter tantrum over the fact that his "**Post to Be**" didn't get a Grammy nom.

Kimye name their baby (the-rather-difficult-to-live-up-to) **Saint ...**



It turns out that the holy warriors of ISIS are a bunch of **speed freaks** taking Captagon.



Chipotle's food-contamination crisis.



La Taza de Oro, the iconic Chelsea Puerto Rican lunch counter, will **never reopen.**



Young dirty bastard Martin Shkreli (the hedge-funder who raised the price of an AIDS drug from \$13.50 a pill to \$750) bought that one-off Wu Tang album, *Once Upon a Time in Shaolin*, for, reportedly, \$2 million.



The NYC foam-container ban is **foiled** by the courts.

BRILLIANT

Jimmy **Choo-choo!** MTA installs "high-heel friendly" grates along the Second Avenue subway line.



Terrence Howard's **Snakespearian** *Empire* season two.



Thom Yorke's **placid**, elegiac climate-change tune "Silent Spring."

Kendrick Lamar's Grammy-nom **cleanup.**



... But it can't be easy to be named **Langston** (for Hughes), either, as Rachel Dolezal called her baby.

Competitively boozy 81-year-old grandma Elvira Montes beat her daughter in the Beer Mile World Championships.



Alcoholic Architecture's workshop on how to make **bitters** from your own pasteurized tears.



Between the gentrification riffs and the gun-contol finale, *South Park* is **about something again** besides its own gleeful vulgarity.



Screw **global warming**, it's Christmas-sweater season!

The last of *America's Next Top Models*: **hot** (also deaf) Nyle DiMarco.



LOWBROW

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